

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIX.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 30TH MAY, 1904.

No. 22

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BIRTHS.

On the 17th May, at Ningpo, the wife of the Rev. A. R. KEPLER, of a son.
On the 11th May, at Hankow, the wife of Dr. GILLISON, London Mission, of a son.
On the 18th May, at Tsingtao, the wife of Dr. SCHRAMMEIER, of a daughter.
On the 20th May, at 2, Gomes Villas, Kowloon, the wife of L. P. GLISSMANN, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 7th May, at Yokohama, WILLIAM, son of JOHN D'HARTY, of Redbourn, Herts, to EDITH REBECCA, third daughter of HENRY WELLS BUEB, of S. Albans, Herts, England.

DEATHS.

On the 16th May, H. R. FOSTON, Assistant E. E. Telegraph Co., Singapore, aged 38 years.
On the 25th May, on board the German mail s.s. *Bayern*, ALFRED B. GLOVER, late of Nagasaki.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The German Mail arrived per the steamer *Zieten*, on the 24th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

War telegrams from our own correspondents, etc., will be found on p. 397, and a description of the Yalu fight, the first European account, written by our special representative at the front, on p. 398.

The Fatshan-Samshui section of the Canton Railway is to be opened on Wednesday next, the 1st prox.

The Japanese disasters have been received in Russia without exultation. The newspapers give a tribute to the gallantry of the Japanese seamen.

The increasing evidence that the Russians are deliberately strewing the high seas with mines is evoking strong protests from the British Press, according to Reuter.

According to advices just received, the scheme for establishing an Imperial Government Bank of China is progressing. It has the Empress Dowager's strong support.

Russia has notified the Antwerp and Rotterdam shipbrokers that she wants thirty more large steamers, deliverable at Libau by the end of June, to accompany the Baltic fleet.

The *Times* correspondents' steamers *Haimun* has returned to Nagasaki, with her wireless telegraphic apparatus, damaged by bad weather experienced in the Straits of Tsushima.

According to Japanese papers, the two Chilean warships recently sold to a firm in New York are sold with an undertaking that they shall not be resold to any belligerent Power.

The despatch of the huge painting of the Dowager-Empress of China from Peking to the St. Louis Exhibition is regarded by the natives as an omen that Her Majesty will not outlive this year.

According to the *Peking and Tientsin Times* it is hoped that Wang Chou, who has a good chance of dying in his miserable prison, will be released at the Empress Dowager's birthday celebration.

Russia has ordered one hundred Whitehead torpedoes of the latest model, which have hitherto only been in the possession of the Japanese. France, Italy, and Austria have also given orders for the same.

We received on the 25th inst., from the Colonial Secretary's office, a copy of the following telegram from the Secretary of State, London, to the Officer Administering the Government, dated the 25th May:—"Governor leaves, Marseilles 1st July due 30th July."

The British Foreign Office List gives a description of a new flag which has been selected by the British authorities to distinguish H.B.M.'s Consulates. The new flag is an Union Jack with a Tudor Crown on a white circular shield in the centre. The Tudor Crown is of the same shape as that on the present postage stamps.

We have received from the Colonial Secretary's Office a copy of the following telegram from the British Consul at Bangkok to the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, dated 25th May:—"Kohphai quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong and Swatow. Medical inspection imposed on arrivals from other China ports."

On Sunday night, the 29th inst., our Manila correspondent telegraphed to us the following effect:—"The Constabulary have arrested Ricarte at Mariveles, where it is presumed that he was waiting to be smuggled over to Hongkong." Ricarte is, of course, the famous "Viper," the insurrecto chief so much wanted by the U. S. Constabulary in Luzon.

The *Daily Telegraph* states that Japanese agents have just purchased several steamers in Antwerp of 2,000 and 3,000 tons.

It is reported that at Kwangchowwan recently, a reconnoitring party of Tonkinese riflemen, under the command of French non-coms., was attacked by the insurgents who infest the region of Kwangchowwan. One sergeant was killed. In another engagement, three riflemen were killed, and two murdered in the island of Tanhai. Their bodies were horribly mutilated. Serious repressive measures have been taken.

It is reported from the North, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that there is great panic amongst the people still left in the city and environs of Moukden, owing to a rumour spread by the Russians there that the moment the Japanese forces come near Liaoyang the Russians intend to set fire both to that city and to Moukden and then retreat to Harbin. In consequence of this all who are able to leave Moukden are doing so to seek safety elsewhere.

The s.s. *Tweeddale* left for Durban on the 25th inst. morning with 1,055 coolies, the first batch from Hongkong for the South African mines. The following other steamers have been chartered as transports for the conveyance of 8,000 to 10,000 coolies from China to Durban:—The *Brinkburn*, *Courtfield*, and *Cranley*, owned by Messrs Harris and Dixon, London; and the *Indravelli*, owned by the Indra Line, Liverpool. The passage money has been fixed at £5 per head.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* publishes the following, dated Peking, 21st May:—"The report that the German Minister has consulted the Wai-wupu with a view to the placing of guard troops on the Shantung railway is a pure invention. As the Chinese intend to fully protect the railway themselves, which they have done also in the past to the fullest satisfaction of all concerned, there was no reason why the German Minister should consult in this matter the Chinese Government at all.

A scare arose during the past week in Hongkong and Macao in connection with the proceedings for the extradition of the ex-Namhoi Magistrate, Poi or Pui, from the Portuguese Colony. Early in the week a small Chinese squadron, six vessels in all—none of them very formidable—entered Macao harbour and anchored there. It was imagined by some that the intention of Viceroy Shum was to intimidate the Macao authorities, who are slow in handing over the fugitive. However, there seems to have been a great deal of exaggeration in the rumours, and nothing serious has come of the affair.

The *N.-C. Daily News* reports that a "parliament" consisting of all the Viceroys and Governors of provinces, to meet once a year to discuss matters relating to their various jurisdictions, with the object of obtaining unanimity of action throughout the Empire, has been recently recommended to the Throne in a joint memorial from Viceroy Yuan Shi-k'ai and Yung Ch'ing, a Manchu member of the Grand Council and Co-Chancellor of the Peking University. It is further proposed that this assembly of high provincial authorities shall be presided over by a Prince, assisted by two Imperial Commissioners, elected by the Throne for the occasion. It has not yet transpired how the recommendation has been received by the Throne.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 21st May.)

Lovers of sensation—and modern newspaper-readers in all parts of the world are supposed to be such—cannot complain that during the past forty-eight hours they have not been abundantly supplied with excitement. The war in the North has moved with tremendous rapidity and has left ineffaceable marks. The horrors of warfare have been demonstrated in their most vivid light. The news which reached the Colony yesterday, and which we reproduce in our own correspondent's and the Japanese official telegrams in to-day's issue, comes with a shock of startling intensity. Early in the week we learnt that the Japanese cruiser *Miyako*, while engaged in destroying Russian mines in the neighbourhood of Dalny, touched one of them and sank, happily with very few casualties. It was not until yesterday that it was known here that, on the very day following that first serious disaster in the war to Japan's Navy, two far more cruel blows followed, one of them of irreparable extent. The latter is, of course, the sinking of the great battleship *Hatsuse*, flagship of Rear-Admiral NASHIBA, which came in contact with a Russian mechanical mine ten miles away from the Liaotian promontory below Port Arthur and sank in half an hour's time, drowning nearly 450 men. This magnificent warship is nearly the finest in the Japanese fleet and represents one-sixth of the battleship squadron. A month ago the world was startled at the loss of the Russian flagship *Petropavlovsk*, one of Russia's strongest naval items. The *Hatsuse's* fate was only less appalling because less sudden than that of the *Petropavlovsk*; but the *Hatsuse* was a vessel of 4,000 tons' more displacement. Further, as if this disaster were not grievous enough, on the same day, in a fog off Shantung promontory, the newly-purchased Japanese cruiser *Kasuga* ran into another cruiser and sank her, drowning 200 men. Japan's new cruiser has done her country indeed an ill service early in her career. The *Yoshino* was fairly large, but not very new, and her loss is, of course, in no way comparable to that of the *Hatsuse*. Still she was an effective part of Japan's fleet. It may well be imagined that grief pervades Japan at the loss of three good ships and between 650 and 700 men in the course of two days. After nearly three months and a half of naval war in which the Japanese injuries were infinitesimal in comparison with the damage inflicted on the foe and the greatness of the task accomplished, two days have turned exultation into sorrow, and accidents have dealt a wound which actual fighting could not deal. The sympathy of Britons, and of many others as well, must go out to Japan in this hour. The triple catastrophe may not affect the course of the war, but it is nevertheless of cruel intensity. Japan continues to command the sea, but in less preponderating strength, and the events of the 14th and 15th instant may decide Russia to attempt to carry into execution the threat of sending out her Baltic fleet, "scratch pack" though it may be, to challenge Japan's weakened naval power. The awful import of submarine mines has truly been well illustrated in this war.

On land the Japanese are fortunate in being able to point to very distinct successes to counterbalance, in some degree, their naval disasters. Newchwang is in their hands without a struggle (involving the destruction by Russia of the hardly valuable gun-vessel *Sivoutch*), and the Liaotung peninsula is theirs from Tashihchiao right

down to Kinchow. More significant still is the Russian story that the retreat on Harbin is threatened. The astonishing report reached us just too late for publication in Thursday's issue of this paper that a Japanese force had reached a point thirty miles north-east of Moukden, coming from what direction we do not yet know; it might be from Fenghuangcheng in the South, or possibly from the East. No confirmation from Japanese sources has been published, as was only to be expected, seeing how well hidden have been the land tactics of Japan. General KUROPATKIN was stated to calculate that the Japanese would take six weeks to reach Harbin, supposing them to have 225,000 men in Manchuria. But now it is actually suggested that the Russian retreat from Moukden to Harbin may be intercepted. A curious commentary, truly, on General PFLUG's criticism, telegraphed from Moukden to St. Petersburg, that "Japan's advance to Liaoyang is characterised by indecision"! We might almost expect to hear soon that General PFLUG has been superseded, following Admiral STARCK, Viceroy ALEXIEFF, and General SASSULITCH into the disgrace which has punished want of foresight on the Russian side in this war. Japan's "indecision," at any rate, seems to have been a very effective manœuvre if it has resulted as well as Russian reports seem to make out. But that the Japanese should already be in a position to threaten the retreat from Moukden to Harbin seems almost incredible. It will be well to await confirmation of the news. Already somewhat conflicting rumours are abroad.

NAVAL LOSSES OF THE BELLIGERENTS.

(Daily Press, 23rd May.)

Russia has not been slow to suffer also at the hands of Nature a similar disaster to that which afflicted Japan on the 15th instant, when a fog caused the loss of the cruiser *Yoshino*. The Russian cruiser *Bogatyr*, in a fog, has now sunk outside Vladivostock. In the case of the *Yoshino*, it was one of her fellow cruisers which sank her; the *Bogatyr* was lost through striking land. The result has been the same in both cases, that the unfortunate vessel is out of the war, even if not permanently out of existence. The Russians were able to save all the crew, it seems, in this more happy than the Japanese. But, on the other hand, the *Bogatyr* was a far larger, more modern, and better armed vessel than the *Yoshino*, and the loss to Russia is proportionately heavier. At this time, when disasters have been overtaking both belligerents' navies in rapid succession, it may not be uninteresting to give a list of the actual losses, as far as can be made out from the various accounts. Taking the Russian fleet first, we have the following:—

Petropavlovsk, battleship, blown up off Port Arthur on 13th April;

Bogatyr, protected cruiser, wrecked off Vladivostock last week;

Varyag, protected cruiser, sunk at Chemulpo on 9th February;

Koreetz, gunboat, sunk at Chemulpo on 9th February;

Sivoutch, gun-vessel, destroyed by Russians at Newchwang;

Bestrachni, destroyer, sunk at Port Arthur on 13th April;

Vnushitelni, destroyer, wrecked off Port Arthur on 24th February;

Sterequatchi, destroyer, sunk off Port Arthur on 10th March;

Yenisei, mine or torpedo-transport, blown up at Dalny on 11th February.

To these may be added perhaps the *Bayan*, armoured cruiser, reported wrecked at Port Arthur in February, and *Boyarin*, protected cruiser, claimed by the Japanese to have been wrecked at Dalny on 12th February; and the following damages of a serious nature:—

Pobieda, battleship, struck by mine off Port Arthur on 13th April;

Pollava, battleship, struck by shell at Port Arthur on 9th February;

Retvisan, battleship, torpedoed at Port Arthur on 8th February;

Tsarevitch, battleship, torpedoed at Port Arthur on 8th February;

Askold, protected cruiser, struck by shell at Port Arthur on 9th February;

Diana, protected cruiser, struck by shell at Port Arthur on 9th February;

Pallada, protected cruiser, torpedoed at Port Arthur on 8th February.

The case of the *Novik*, protected cruiser, is doubtful; she has done a lot of hard fighting and has several times been reported injured.

Turning now to the Japanese fleet, the following losses are certain:—

Hatsuse, battleship, blown up off Port Arthur on 15th May;

Yoshino, protected cruiser, sunk in collision off Shantung promontory on 15th May;

Miyako, unarmoured cruiser, blown up off Talienswan on 14th May.

No record of lesser Japanese casualties can be furnished. The Russians have repeatedly claimed to have sunk destroyers and torpedo-boats, but, apart from the blowing up of torpedo-boat No. 48 at Talienswan on the 12th May, the Japanese admit no losses. As the Japanese official news has been so correct we must be inclined to believe their actual losses no more; but with regard to minor injuries it is known that they have docked some vessels from time to time. Whether the *Kasuga* was injured in the collision on the 15th instant remains to be heard.

In total losses, therefore, we may certainly set one Russian battleship, two protected cruisers, two gunboats, three destroyers, and a mining vessel against one Japanese battleship, one protected cruiser, and one unarmoured cruiser. In addition the Russians have four battleships and at least three protected cruisers practically *hors de combat* against unknown but small Japanese casualties. The discrepancy is not a little startling; or at least it would have been, could we have foreseen it at the beginning of the war.

HARBOUR IMPROVEMENT AND THE I.M.C.

(Daily Press, 26th May.)

In our issue of the 13th April we drew attention to the seeming contempt into which Clause X. of the Protocol of 1901, providing for the more effectual control of the harbours and harbour-approaches of China, had been permitted to fall. It was difficult to say what were the influences at work; changes had taken place in the personnel at the ports; the Consul-General of the United States at Shanghai, who had been elected Chairman of the local Board of Conservators, had gone home temporarily to consult his Government on the political aspect; and it was well known that the Foreign Inspectorate of Customs, jealous as ever of outside action, was by no means indisposed to rejoice over the apparent wreckage of the entire scheme; while, probably chiefest of all, the Foreign Ministers, disconcerted by the continual intrigues of the reactionary Powers, were only too glad to

welcome the respite afforded by the apparently growing indifference of those most interested—namely the merchants and owners of shipping. It is therefore a source of satisfaction to ourselves, as well as to the different interests concerned, to find that the subject has once again been brought into notice, and that some progress has been made during the interval of time since elapsed. The result shows how persistent had been the efforts of those representing the Chinese Government to render the Protocol ineffective. On his return from America, Mr. Goodnow, U.S. Consul-General at Shanghai, proceeded in due course to visit the Viceroy at Nanking, with reference, amongst other business of importance, to the immediate completion of the Conservancy Board. He was probably not altogether surprised at finding the Viceroy prepared with a cut-and-dry alternative scheme admirably adapted for shelving for good the entire Article in the Protocol. Professing, as usual when most obstructive, the greatest desire to remove all possible burdens on trade, the Viceroy spoke of the hardships on it involved by the proposal to make the Board raise its own funds by taxation of the interests advantaged. Sooner than increase the already heavy burdens on the trade, the Viceroy was prepared to find the whole of the money required out of the ordinary provincial revenue. Why should the foreign merchant and foreign trade be taxed, when he could put up himself all the money required? It was, of course, not difficult to see the actuating motive underlying this pretended assumption of disinterestedness; and it was equally plain that though the Viceroy was made the mouthpiece, the real originators of the scheme were to be found at Peking. In addition to the unwillingness of old China to do anything whatever which might be made instrumental in furthering the spread of foreign ideas in China, there was the marked jealousy in delegating any authority whatever to the hated foreigner, and this jealousy was aided and abetted by the Inspector-General and the whole staff of the Foreign Customs, who, sooner than permit so extensive a mass of patronage to pass out of their hands, were willing that the entire interests of foreign trade should be sacrificed rather than see any amendment come from so uncongenial a quarter. There was a time, of course, when the interests of foreign trade were safe in the hands of the Inspector-General and his staff—those were however, the days before the revolutionary ideas of Peking were adopted as their guiding principles. From the beginning it may be acknowledged that Sir ROBERT HART was a centraliser, and in his great work—the building up of the Inspectorate—he thereby conferred a great and lasting benefit on China at large. There are, however, limits, as our own Government has found out, to centralisation, when instead of being a blessing, it actually develops into a curse. Harbour conservation is essentially one of those departments where centralisation is seen at its worst, and experience here is not bounded by China, or even by Great Britain. It is therefore unfortunate that of recent years the Maritime Customs should have gone out of its way to aid and abet by all means within its power the centralising instincts of the Government of the Empress Dowager. The Inspectorate was above all never intended to be a political factor; it was felt at its first establishment that its natural ambition to become a power in the State was likely to be detrimental to its permanent utility, and for many years it was content to confine itself to its proper sphere of collecting the duties on foreign

trade. Circumstances forced it to a certain extent to undertake other duties, and the useful limitations which had hitherto kept its aspirations within bounds came to be forgotten or neglected. This, we are sorry to say, has become since the events of 1900 aggravated. We owe much to the Foreign Customs, and look upon it as the great guarantee against anarchy. The interests of foreign trade are, we consider, involved in its unimpaired continuance. But in order to guarantee its continuance it is above all things necessary that it should not by undue interference give a handle to its many enemies. This is the lesson which recently seems to have escaped the memory of its chief advisers.

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

(Daily Press, 30th May.)

With some of the remarks of the *Singapore Free Press* recently on the question of the Kowloon-Canton Railway we are most thoroughly in accord. We do not know much about the Crown Agents in this particular, and do not yearn to know anything by experience. If the British Imperial Government, or the Colonial Government, by permission of Downing Street, undertook to make the railway they would no doubt call for tenders and not resort to the Crown Agents, who fulfil a useful office in their way, of course, but should not be made intermediaries in such a matter as the construction of a State railway. But with the following sentences from our Straits contemporary our readers will, we are sure, agree:—"Sir MATTHEW NATHAN is not only a high authority on defence, but as a Royal Engineer, as having served in the Soudan, and governed the Gold Coast, he knows well the value of improving rapid communication with the great back country of China. Let Hongkong take a leaf out of the book of Russia through railway policy, and at any cost see the line constructed out of hand—a double line, too, to begin with. If the harvest is to be reaped, there should not be a moment lost in getting the seed put into the ground." No time should be lost indeed, but for other and still stronger reasons than those named above. Five and a half years have already been lost, and with it a large slice of the prestige Great Britain enjoyed in the Far East formerly as being foremost in every great work and enterprise. Not only so, but her great commercial outpost in Eastern Asia is daily running the risk of finding a rival in the China seas wherein she has been for more than half a century pre-eminent as the distributing centre for the trade of South China.

It is to be hoped that the efforts being made by the local branch of the China Association and by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce will bear good fruit before long. We want to see the reproach wiped off British enterprise that it is a laggard in the race for concessions for railways; we want to see railways in China which have been constructed by British capital and built with British materials. We want above all things to see the New Territory opened up to trade, and communication by rail between Kowloon and Canton established, and from thence to Hankow and Peking. We want to see Kowloon constituted at once and effectively the seaward terminus of China's great main railway, which will traverse it from the capital to the City of Rams, and thence to the sea. It is especially ours to see that the final section is

constructed by British capital and laid by British engineers, and that the work does not drift out of our hands. Other nations are not only eager to secure concessions for making railways in China, but also swift to carry them into effect. The Russians, the Germans, the Belgians, the French, and the Americans are all engaged in the work, and other concessions are being applied for. Only the other day we announced that a railway was being projected from Macao to Canton, and that Chinese capital was freely forthcoming for the enterprise. We now learn that a concession has been applied for, or granted—we are not sure which—to lay a railway from the city of Chaochow-fu to Swatow, thirty-five miles in length, a line that cannot well fail to pay, for the traffic is great between the two places. This line should, by good rights, have been placed in British hands, for British interests greatly predominate at Swatow, but we believe it is in the possession of some foreign syndicate. No one can blame other Powers if they are more enterprising and secure the prize first, but it is to be deplored that Great Britain, which was the pioneer in opening up China to foreign trade, and which has always possessed so preponderating a share of that trade, should allow herself to be left so hopelessly in the rear in the matter of railway enterprise. The marvel is that foreign capital and enterprise have not been allowed to construct the tramways in the city of Victoria. It took twenty years to talk about them, but they have at last been laid, and laid so long before being brought into use that the track is being worn away before the cars commence running.

"THE REAL YELLOW PERIL."

(Daily Press, 27th May.)

In the latest number which has reached us from Bombay of the *Times of India* there is a long and interesting editorial article entitled "The Real Yellow Peril." To-day being the fourth anniversary of the practical outbreak of what is commonly known as the "Boxer Rebellion," the discussion of the Yellow Peril seems to be appropriate, especially as the subject has been brought up again prominently by the Continental Press in Europe lately. The cries of the period when the German Emperor's melodramatic picture summed up what numberless people really believed have been revived. That Russian interest ultimately has much to do with the inspiration of these cries must be recognised; but that they have an alarming effect outside Russia also cannot be denied. Partly the echo of them in the Paris papers and in the German Press may be due to direct Russian prompting, but we believe that there is also a genuine dread of the Peril in quarters untouched by Russian influence, moral or pecuniary. Even in English papers we can find traces of the panic, and in some British Colonial organs there are more than mere traces. It was not unnatural that the Boxer rising should cause serious reflection on the possibility of China's millions realising the force of numbers, and not merely claiming their own; partly torn from them by Western aggression, but proceeding to retaliate by expansion at the cost of the West. And undoubtedly Sir ROBERT HART, when he wrote under the influence of the famous siege of the Legations at Peking, produced a notable effect upon European minds. Here was a man who above all foreigners of any time was acquainted with the Chinese by practical experience; and if he foresaw "twenty millions or more of Boxers armed, drilled, disciplined, and

animated by patriotic—if mistaken—motives," about to make residence in China impossible for foreigners, to take back from foreigners everything foreigners had taken from China, to pay off old grudges with interest, and to "carry the Chinese flag and Chinese arms into many a place that even fancy will not suggest to-day"—well, if he foresaw this, argued the West, still feeling the effects of the sieges of Peking and Tientsin, then the Yellow Peril must be very real. But the West did not allow for the fact that Sir ROBERT HART's nerves had been shaken like those of the rest of his race. Time brought reason, and the panic subsided until this year. Now there has arisen the phenomenon of Japan daring to face Russia, the most dreaded Power of Continental Europe, and not merely facing her, but winning victories both by sea and by land. It was very natural, again, that the old feelings should recur, and that the flame, skilfully if obviously fanned from S. Petersburg, should be burning bright once more. It is very natural, we say, but that is not to say that it is reasonable.

The militant Yellow Danger, which, in Sir ROBERT HART's words in 1900, is to imperil the world's future, is the bogey of over-wrought imagination, and this must be recognised by sober judges at their sober moments—for even habitual sobriety may be dissipated at times, which is why we get prophecies about ten millions of Boxers even from so eminent an authority as Sir ROBERT HART. The question remains, however, whether there is a Yellow Peril at all. And here we think the writer in the *Times of India* strikes the right note. He says—what must be obvious on a little reflection—that, whatever the issue of the present war, whether Japan wins or loses, the result will be a coalition, open or veiled, between the two great Asiatic nations of the Far East. Japan victorious will naturally take the lead in China, and for her own sake she will encourage an armed China in the way of a fresh Russian advance. If Japan, on the other hand, were beaten, Manchuria would become a mere appanage of Russia, and China, in constant dread of a Russian horde pouring through the Great Wall on Peking, would still more be thrown in the arms of Japan, desperate but unbroken in spirit. In either event, therefore, we must look for closer union between China and Japan. That union will be defensive and not offensive, but it will lead to the organisation of China as a military and naval Power. For this, as Sir ROBERT HART showed recently, she can raise the money without great difficulty. Our Bombay contemporary proceeds:—"We hear less talk nowadays of 'the partition of China'; ten years hence 'it will be a forgotten phrase, if we read the situation aright. But we shall be hearing much of a still only half-recognised aspect of the position. With China able 'to protect herself, ready to resist aggression, and confident in her newly-gained strength under the ægis of Japan, her internal development will proceed apace. She will not only supply her own markets, but the phenomenal industry of her fugal millions will enable her to claim and obtain a footing in the markets of the world. When that day arrives, there is a genuine danger that, in the words of the late Mr. CHARLES PEARSON, 'the expansion of Englishmen and Russians and other like nations will be arrested, and the character of the peoples profoundly modified, as they have to adapt themselves to a stationary condition of society.' In that very significant possibility lies, we believe, 'the real and the only Yellow Peril.'" This

sums up the case, it seems to us, very justly. We have only one question to ask, and that is: Will this Yellow Peril, after all, be a Peril? In other words, will the arresting of the expansion of Englishmen, Russians, etc., be harmful, or will not the necessary consolidation rather be a blessing and lead to real progress as opposed to mere increase in bulk? We could not attempt to argue this question here. It is too vast, and perhaps its answer can only be furnished by Time. But it certainly merits consideration.

AN OFFICIAL ARMY JOURNAL.

(Daily Press, 25th May.)

We published in our issue of Monday a letter received by us from Lieutenant-General the Hon. NEVILLE LYTTLETON, Chief of the General Staff, with reference to the institution of an official *Army Journal*. The Army Order enclosed by General LYTTLETON gave a certain indication of the nature of the new journal, which is to be a shilling monthly review dealing with subjects of a professional and scientific nature—the science referred to being, of course, the science of war. It is intended to "circulate information on military matters and to promote, as far as possible, a knowledge of the principles of Imperial defence amongst all ranks and all arms of the military forces of the Crown." Soldiers of all services are invited to contribute, and we are told also that "special articles by eminent civilians will also be published from time to time." But there is to be no payment for contributions, though prizes will be granted from time to time for essays and articles on special subjects, the eminent civilian writers, we hope, being rewarded by some of these prizes. This non-payment, as a regular matter, strikes us as the weakest point in the scheme, and it appears from the few criticisms which we have seen in home papers that this is the impression there also. The *Saturday Review*, for instance, considers that "the *Army Journal* will be the refuge of military nonentities, whose contributions paying editors do not think good enough for insertion"; and *Truth* has doubts about the possibility of running a journal on the lines suggested, and sees "a sop to Cerberus in 'the shape of the British taxpayer.'" Personally, we should think a moderate remuneration for original articles would secure a better class of work. Without payment it is to be feared that the *Saturday's* forecast will not be far wrong. However, the *Army Journal* may prove an exception to the general rule, and may attract valuable contributions without reward except very occasionally. The scheme as a whole seems to us an interesting one, and we should like to see success attend the War Office's latest effort. *Truth*, in its remarks on the proposal, says that, "if there is one evil from which the Army has suffered more conspicuously than another, it is being too much discussed in print." But we do not think that sensible discussion can hurt the Army. Much will, of course, depend on the editorial discrimination, and who it is who will exercise this we are not told. Perhaps General LYTTLETON himself will wield the blue pencil. The experiment will at any rate be interesting.

The German Minister at Peking, Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein, has been consulting with the Chinese Government with a view to the placing of guard troops on both sides of the Shantung railway. Is this another step in the "Manchurianising" of Shantung?

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press 23rd May.)

The smallness of the birth-rate among the Chinese in the Colony certainly calls for remark, but there is something more to be said on the subject than what one is accustomed to find in the Registrar-General's annual report. "The number of the Chinese-births registered," the Registrar-General says, "does not give an accurate record of the total number of births of Chinese that have occurred in the Colony, for many of the infants that die during the first month or so of life remain unregistered." But as it has been customary to add to the registered births the number of infants of one month old and under that die in the Colony, and as I suppose those children which survive the first month do eventually come on to the register, the corrected birth-rate which the Registrar-General gives us may be taken as approximately correct. The rate here must certainly be far below that of any town on the mainland, and the explanation must surely be found in the great preponderance of males among our Chinese population, for it seems to be quite the thing for the wife to live at Canton and the husband in Hongkong. This state of things has been brought about by the increasing cost of living in Hongkong owing to the growing density of the population, and the necessity for sanitary measures which have resulted in making living more costly for the Chinese, particularly in regard to rents, than their limited resources will stand. Our population shows astonishing growth, but it is growth by immigration.

Now that one is able to put two and two together, it is not altogether surprising that the Opium Farmer should be willing to pay the enhanced price of over two million dollars for the Opium Farm. When the contract was fixed people began to cast about for a cause for the increased tender. The cause now appears. It is an open secret that the Transvaal Mining Syndicate want, not 50,000 coolies as originally stated, but 300,000; and the opium required to supply that army of Chinese—equal to the population of Hongkong—should bring in sufficient profits to justify the Opium Farmer in putting in his tremendous offer for the traffic.

The most stirring incident of the week has been the passage at arms between Mr. May the Governor and Mr. Pollock in the Legislative Council on the occasion of the Opium Bill debate. Mr. May asked the hon. member very brusquely if he were a paid agent in his advocacy of the opposition to the Bill. Mr. Pollock very warmly replied, repelling the charge and referring to his years of public life in Hongkong as a sufficient answer to the allegation. Sir Henry Berkeley, however, struck a true note when he said that the hon. member could not be expected to be an unbiassed observer of the situation considering that he had been professionally employed in drawing up the two petitions by the Chinese against the Bill.

A correspondent recently wrote pointing out that the method of taking up European offenders to the Police Station as practised by the police was not calculated to impress the Chinese in the views they hold about foreigners. Certainly it is not a pleasant spectacle to see a white man haled along the street by, say, an Indian and a Chinese *lukong*. But if an European goes to the length of making a fool of himself in public by getting intoxicated and making an exhibition of himself little can be said against the methods the police employ in dealing with him. There is a question whether it is better to allow an European to make an exhibition of himself on the street to the delectation of the Chinese or for the police to "run" him to the station, whatever the nationality of the police may be. As for providing gharries for drunken Europeans, as suggested by your correspondent, that, in my opinion, would simply be placing a premium on drunkenness. When the Chinese see that an European cannot commit a breach of the peace with impunity it must impress them with the idea that there is no such thing in Hongkong as one law for the whites and another for the natives.

Many Hongkong people will remember W. Muskett, late of Watson's, who was a well-known writer in the newspapers over the pen-name of "Ionic." When he died some three years ago a movement was set afoot to erect a stone over his grave. Mr. N. K. Davidson took the responsibility of seeing the scheme through, and it has now been consummated by the erection of a memorial-stone over the deceased's remains at Happy Valley.

A local naturalist writes to me:—The other night as I was walking up Zetland Street I saw two toads. Watching them for some time I observed them to jump into a crevice in the great stone wall, where, no doubt, they have made a little house. In the summer they must get rather dry, but, perhaps, during their nocturnal wanderings they absorb sufficient moisture from the atmosphere. We have heard of toads hopping out of solid stone when broken; but I believe there is no foundation for such tales. These ancient, queer-looking inhabitants may often be heard croaking about Ice House Street at night-time.

Constable John Godfrey, a familiar figure for many years at the Magistracy, left for home by the English mail on Saturday after 15 years' service in the Hongkong Police. He was as popular as he was well known. Many years ago, while he was stationed at Stanley, there was a report that a tiger had been committing depredations in that neighbourhood. Searching for the animal, P.C. Godfrey had the misfortune to trip over a tussock, with the result that his carbine went off and the shot passed through his right wrist, permanently injuring the limb.

BANYAN.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

KOBE, 19th May.

The Japanese battleship *Hatsuse* on the 15th inst. struck a Russian mine off Port Arthur and sank in thirty minutes. About 300 men were saved by the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese cruiser *Yoshino* was sunk in collision with the cruiser *Kasuga* off the promontory of Shantung on the 15th inst. also. About 90 of her crew were saved.

LONDON, 20th May.

A Russian official despatch announces that Newchwang has been captured by the Japanese. The gun-vessel *Sivovich* was destroyed by the Russians previously.

The Russians admit that all communication with Port Arthur is now broken off.

It is reported that the Russian retreat on Harbin has been prevented by the interposition of a Japanese force.

KOBE, 21st May.

The Russian cruiser *Bogatyr* stranded at the entrance to Vladivostok in a fog and sank.

LONDON, 22nd May.

The *Standard* reports that wholesale executions, without any preliminary trials, have been taking place at Warsaw. No less than 600 people have been hanged.

Many executions have also taken place at Moscow and Cronstadt, the *Standard* says.

KOBE, 23rd May.

Admiral Skrydloff has arrived at Vladivostok.

LONDON, 24th May.

Admiral Skrydloff and M. Bezobrazoff have arrived at Vladivostok on Sunday.

KOBE, 25th May.

The Japanese Navy Department has been informed that the battleship *Orel* has been stranded and wrecked. The place is not stated.

LONDON, 26th May.

The cruiser *Bogatyr*, which was reported wrecked at Vladivostok has now been destroyed by the Russians. The Baltic battleship *Orel* has been saved.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Mr. M. Noma, Japanese Consul at Hongkong, has sent us copies of the following official telegrams received by him from Tokyo:—

Tokyo, 19th May, 11.5 p.m.

"Admiral Togo reports that, while the third squadron was returning from Port Arthur in the deep fog, the *Yoshino* was struck by the *Kasuga* off Shantung promontory on the 15th instant and sunk; ninety of the crew were saved. "On the same day, when the *Hatsuse* was ten miles south-east off Laotishan with other vessels, she was struck by the enemy's mechanical mines and sunk; just then the Russian flotilla, consisting of sixteen torpedo-boat destroyers, approached, but was repulsed by our cruisers, which saved 300 of the *Hatsuse's* crew, including Rear-Admiral Nashiba and Captain Nakao."

Tokyo, 20th May, 5 p.m.

"Rear-Admiral Masamichi Togo reports that on the 15th inst. our fleet, consisting of four cruisers, three gunboats, and the torpedo flotilla, after successfully repelling the enemy's destroyers which emerged from Port Arthur at the time of the *Hatsuse* disaster and rescuing the drowning crew, proceeded to Pichili Gulf and reconnoitered along the Kaichow Promontory. On the 16th inst. we discovered a part of the enemy ashore, and fired upon them, and they fled. On the 17th inst. we penetrated the Kaichow Gulf and bombarded the enemy's edifices, the railway, bridges, and military trains."

Tokyo, 20th May, 5.20 p.m.

"A portion of our army commenced landing at Takushan on the 17th inst."

Tokyo, May 20th, 12.40 p.m.

"The enemy which participated in the fight near Kinchow on the 16th instant consisted of the 5th, the 14th, and 16th Sharpshooter Infantry Regiments with eight quickfiring. They left on the field thirty dead officers and men. According to the prisoners' statements, the enemy's casualties were above 300."

Tokyo, 21st May, 2.55 p.m.

"Admiral Togo reports that the gunboat squadron with the destroyer and the torpedo-boat flotillas approached Port Arthur on the 20th instant for reconnoitring, which was successfully effected with little damage, despite the hot crossfire from the enemy's forts; no casualties for our side."

Tokyo, 21st May, 10.35 p.m.

"A company of the enemy appeared six miles north of Takushan and was surrounded by our infantry. They fled with many casualties. A Russian captain was taken prisoner. There was no casualty for our side."

Tokyo, 24th May, 6.40 p.m.

"General Kuroki reports that on the 21st inst. one section of our infantry encountered 200 of the enemy's cavalry, eight miles north-west of Kuantung. The enemy fled north-east leaving 20 dead. There were no Japanese casualties."

Tokyo, 27th May, 3.45 p.m.

"The Commander of our Army attacking Kinchow reports as follows:—On the 21st May observation and the enemy's cannonading showed that the enemy had at Nanshan Hill, south of Kinchow, four 15-centimetre shrapnel guns, ten 9 to 15-centimetre cannons (10.5 centimetre shells proved the range to be 8,500 metres), and two 12-centimetre quickfiring, besides at least ten forts. At the foot of the hill were wire netting and mines."

"On the 22nd our attacking force commenced operations as prearranged."

"On the 23rd a reconnaissance discovered the enemy's right wing on Huashangtao with about eight heavy guns facing the sea. Fragments of the enemy's shells showed 20-centimetre guns, 15-centimetre short cannons, 10.5 and 8-centimetre cannons, and 7-centimetre quickfiring. Small bodies of infantry and artillery were observable staying at Kinchow."

"On the 25th at morning we attacked Kinchow, engaging the enemy's artillery at Nanshan."

"On the 26th at dawn we commenced cannonading lasting five hours, while three Japanese warships assisted from Kinchow Bay. A Russian gunboat attacked our left wing from Tashihchiao. We took Kinchow at 5.30 a.m. and after a severe fight occupied Nanshan. We are pursuing the enemy."

Tokyo, 27th May, 6.35 p.m.

The detailed report of the attack at Kinchow is as follows:—The enemy built several

covered trenches around forts of Nanshan and offered a stubborn resistance under the strong defence works. Nevertheless, after several attempts we finally succeeded in taking the enemy's position by storm, driving the enemy towards Nankwanling. This severe fight continued sixteen hours.

Admiral Togo telegraphs that the captain commanding the detached fleet, consisting of four gunboats and the torpedo flotilla, reports by wireless telegraphy that the fleet reached Kinchow Bay, and co-operating with our army bombarded Nanshan on the 26th May, and upon witnessing our army occupy Nanshan forts withdrew. The captain of the *Chokai* was killed, and there were nine other casualties. Damage done to our ships was insignificant.

Tokyo, 28th May, 2.10 p.m.

The commander of our army attacking Kinchow reports that a detachment consisting of infantry, artillery, and engineers occupied Nankwanling on the morning of the 27th instant. The enemy was driven towards Port Arthur, burning the railway station at Sankhiliapao, north-west of Dalny. On the 26th we captured fifty guns, besides many other things. The enemy left 400 dead. Our casualties are estimated at 3,000.

Tokyo, 28th May, 6.45 p.m.

The attack on the enemy at Nanshan commenced at 2.35 a.m. The enemy's defensive works were nearly of a permanent nature, their artillery consisting of 50 guns of various calibre and two quick-firing field artillery companies. The infantry, ranged in two or three lines of covered trenches with loopholes and set machine-guns at important points, offered stubborn resistance. We ranged all our field-guns upon the forts. The enemy's principal artillery was silenced at 11 a.m., while the quick-firing, previously retired to Nankwanling, fired till night. Our artillery concentrated fire upon the enemy's trenches, on infantry advancing within 400 to 500 metres of the enemy, but wire entanglements, mines, and trenches lay before us, and the enemy's infantry fire and machine-guns remained unabated. We approached 200 metres further towards the enemy, several charges still proving unsuccessful, our officers and men all falling when 20 or 30 metres from the enemy. Our artillery then prepared for firing, and in the evening, with the most severe cannonading, the last charge was made. With great difficulty we opened the breach through which we gained the whole height and expelled the enemy, capturing all their guns on the forts. The fortunate incident of this attack was the discovery of a mine, attached to a wire, at the eastern foot of Nanshan. We cut the wire and explosion was prevented.

SHANGHAI TELEGRAMS.

We take the following from the *N.C. Daily News*:—

"Peking, 19th May.—Russian troops are being increased in the neighbourhood of Fukumen, while they are being withdrawn from Kaopangtze. The reason put forward is that the bandits must be put down, but military authorities explain that the real intention is to strengthen the defence of Tieling. Great quantities of food and stores are being conveyed by train to Kaiyuan, where the Russians are establishing a defensive point, from Liaoyang and Moukden."

[Kaopangtze is the junction of the Hsinmintu railway with the Newchang line. Kaiyuan and Tieling are on the Manchurian railway north of Moukden, and they are the base points of a triangle of which Fukumen is the apex.]

"Peking, 19th May.—The Russian troops which re-entered Newchwang were despatched for Kaiping. Before yesterday there were at Kaiping about 10,000 Russian troops concentrated to hold the Japanese for a time while preparations can be made for the defence of Liaoyang."

"Tokyo, 19th May.—It is reported that the Japanese occupied Kaiping, south of Newchwang, on the 16th inst., the Russians fleeing in the direction of Tashihchiao."

"Weihaiwei, 19th May.—H.M. sloop *Espigle* left here to-day for Newchwang to protect British interests."

"Peking, 19th May.—The Russo-Chinese Bank has closed its branch at Moukden."

"Tokyo, 19th May.—Corea has officially nullified all her treaties with and concessions to Russia."

"Tokyo, 20th May.—The drowned in the *Hatsuse* include sixteen officers and nineteen petty officers. The drowned in the *Yushino* were sixteen officers, including Captain Sayeki, and thirty-three petty officers."

"The latest naval disasters have caused a painful sensation. The *Kokumin* is unwilling to think that these catastrophes were the result of carelessness, but hopes that circumspection will be exercised in the future, and consoles itself by remembering that the *Hatsuse* and *Yushino*, with their crews, have perished after a life of splendid action."

"Tokyo, 20th May.—It is officially announced that a Japanese squadron reconnoitred Kaiping Bay on the 16th instant, and fired at the Russian troops ashore, who fled. The Japanese swept the adjacent waters on the 16th. The gunboats approached the shore and bombarded the railway bridges, military trains, etc., doing more or less damage."

"Tokyo, 20th May.—It is officially announced that a portion of the Japanese army commenced landing at Takushan on the 19th instant. In the engagement near Kinchon on the 16th inst., the Russians left thirty dead on the field. According to prisoners taken, the Russian casualties exceeded three hundred. The bulk of the Fourth division of Russian infantry, and the whole Seventh division, are occupying the Kinchon peninsula under General Stössel, the Commandant at Port Arthur."

"Tokyo, 21st May.—The latest news, reliable, is that the Russian cruiser *Bogatyr* was destroyed and sunk in a dense fog, probably almost simultaneously with the sinking of the *Kinsiu Maru*.

"Tokyo, 21st May.—It is officially announced that a flotilla of Japanese gunboats and destroyers approached Port Arthur at 1 a.m. on the 20th instant, and effected a reconnaissance in force in despite of a furious cross fire from the batteries. The flotilla left at dawn; no casualties reported."

"Tokyo, 23rd May.—The second issue of Exchange Bonds was announced to-day. They are five per cent. bonds running for seven years, and the minimum issue price is 92. A *communiqué* issued *à propos* says that the estimated war expenditure to the end of the fiscal year from the beginning of hostilities is over forty-one million yen."

"Tokyo, 23rd May.—Some Japanese officers and scouts encountered and exterminated ten Russian cavalymen on the 21st inst. in the interior, north-west of Takushan. Another scouting party captured two cavalymen and seven horses. The Japanese also captured on the 21st inst. a captain and a corporal who were attempting to reconnoitre the rear of the Japanese camp at Tanshancheng."

"Tokyo, 23rd May.—Reliable information has been received that the Russian soldiers are continually surrendering themselves, apparently to avoid fighting, notwithstanding the strictest instructions to the contrary issued by the Russian commanders. Japan's treatment of her prisoners is as tender as possible, and bears full testimony to her humanitarian principles. The prisoners already arrived profess themselves profoundly gratified at their treatment by the Japanese."

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Major-General Dessino, Russian Military Agent in China, has published in some of the Shanghai papers the following telegrams:—

Moukden, 15th May.

During the 12th of May a Japanese detachment of about one battalion of infantry and two companies of cavalry occupied Pulantien. This detachment left the station the same evening. The train going from Dalny returned back. During the night of the 13th of May Pulantien was illuminated with the searchlights of the enemy. On the 13th of May the Japanese reappeared near Pulantien and Wafungtien and destroyed the railway. We closed the stations at Wafungchou and Wantzealin.

In the eastern detachment there are no changes.

We discovered the enemy's cavalry patrols twelve versts (8 miles) to the east of Suiyen.

Between Saimachi and Lienshankuan the *Hunghutze* are attacking our flying post (mail). Forty versts (27 miles) towards the south-

west from Kuanchengtse the Chinese are commencing an insurrection against the Russians and Christians.

According to information received on the 12th and 13th of May the advance of the enemy from Fenghwangcheng towards Liaoyang is proceeding indecisively, having rather a demonstrative character. It is possible that the enemy's main body is marching towards Haicheng or towards Kaichou. Another considerable portion of the enemy is concentrating to the northwest of Takushan.

We have taken measures to clear out the region between Lienshankuan and Saimachi from the *Hunghutze*. In our engagements against them, which have taken place at different times, we lost three Cossacks killed, one wounded, and four missing. During the 13th May a band of these *Hunghutze*, 300 strong, assailed the mines at Yentai, and they were repulsed with a loss of thirty men. We have information of the appearance of a large band of *Hunghutze*, 16 versts (11 miles) to the west of Liaoyang. The patrols of the railway guards that were sent out towards the west, along the Sungari River, could not reach Petuna, owing to the large number of bands of *Hunghutze* congregated there.

Mukden, 16th May.

In the district of Promorski everything is quiet.

Captain Bolchakoff reports from Kencheng, that he has seized forty thousand pounds of powder, which he has thrown into the river.

The Japanese have re-occupied Kuantienhsien.

The line of the flying post between Saimachi and Lienshankuan is fully cleared from the *Hunghutze*.

On the 14th instant a detachment was sent out to disperse the strong band of *Hunghutze* which had assembled sixteen versts west of Liaoyang. The detachment consisted of mounted infantry and the 15th company of the Zaraiski Regiment. After a lively engagement the *Hunghutze* fled, leaving twenty dead and a quantity of arms and ammunition behind them. Our losses are: killed two men, wounded three.

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Chuliencheng, 2nd May.

GREAT JAPANESE VICTORY.

The Japanese and Russian troops have at last measured their strength in earnest, after three days of preliminary fighting, manoeuvring for position and feeling the way, and the Japanese have not only gained the day and forced the passage of the Yalu, but have also shown themselves superior to the Russians in generalship, in mobility, in weapons, in skill at the use of them, and in the fighting spirit of the rank and file. Plainly, the Russians are outclassed at every point. They have lost a most important position, lost over a thousand men, killed, wounded, and prisoners, lost half of their artillery and large quantities of rifles and ammunition, and most of all, they have lost their power to terrify. They have had to hoist the white flag. It is an ominous beginning.

When there has been talk of Russia's land forces retrieving the prestige so much damaged on the water, the Japanese have commented, cautiously, "It is probable that the army may be stronger than the navy, but we may find that the difference is not very great after all." And now they have won the first test match, fairly and thoroughly.

The beginning of it all was nearly a month ago, when the Japanese cavalry scouts followed up the retreat of the Russians through the north-west part of Corea, and had a brush with some Cossacks just outside of Wiju on the Korean side of the Yalu River. The Russians retired to the Manchurian side of the river, and at once began to prepare for a big struggle at this point. It may be true, as frequently stated, that the Russian Generals differ as to the desirability of making a serious effort at the Yalu, but the fact remains that they did make it, and with disastrous result.

I do not pretend to decide whether the passage of the Yalu was in itself of much or little importance, but the important thing about this battle is that it has shown how the two armies compare in strategy, mobility, and efficiency of men and weapons in actual combat. And the verdict on all points is decisively against the Russians. These are considerations far more important than the loss or gain of this or that place; such tangible results are merely the illustrations emphasising the lesson, and they are not as valuable as the lesson itself.

The Yalu is a very shallow, wide, meandering river, full of mud-flats which at times are big islands. When the river is full, the width at Wiju from bank to bank is about two-thirds of a mile, or say 1,000 yards—easy shooting distance, with modern weapons. In a straight line across from Wiju there are no islands, and on the opposite shore there is a bluff called the Tiger's Head. At least, we call it that; probably it is called a large number of different things in Chinese, Manchu, Korean, and Japanese, for most places in this part of the world have so many aliases that we can never hope to get them all right. The Tiger's Head was the principal Russian position. The crest of the hill was made into a regular fortress, of quite formidable dimensions. On the part nearest Wiju there were four batteries of six cannon each, and on a higher level further back from the river-side, in the direction of Chuliencheng, as many again. These guns could, if need be, demolish the whole town of Wiju, and sweep the whole broad bosom of the river and both banks for three or four miles up and down. Towards Antung, which is about seven miles below the Tiger's Head on the same side of the Yalu, the Russians had another fort, of smaller armament; and the intervening ground was plentifully protected by infantry well entrenched.

Besides this main line of defence, the Russians had outposts, of a few men each, at short intervals all the way for thirty or forty miles up the Yalu, and an equal distance down to the sea front and along the coast as far as Takushan. This accounts for the apparently conflicting reports of the Russians' numbers; while it had been said that there were over fifty thousand guarding the Yalu, it is certain that there were not twenty thousand in this action. The explanation is that the Russians foolishly spread themselves over too great a length of line; any given point in their defence was thus bound to be weak, and they were not alert enough to reinforce in time. It is the old story; the army that waits to be attacked is at a disadvantage if it is without information as to the point where the enemy will attack. There may be fifty possible points and the defender is compelled to attend to all the fifty while the attacker can concentrate all his energies on one point.

In this matter of information, I came across a curiously characteristic incident in Wiju itself. The Russians sent several Korean and Chinese spies into the Japanese zone. One of them would be a farmer, another a pedlar, and so on. Some came from Antung, some from Fenghwangcheng, and various other places, but never one of them started out on his spying expedition for the Russians without being tracked from the start by a spy of the Japanese, who lurked in the Russian camp watching for this sort of thing. Thus, a blind beggar (supposed) tramped and begged his slow way along the main road from Wiju down to Pingyang, and by strange coincidence an itinerant vendor of Manchester piece-goods happened to be going the same way, and stayed each night in the same village. At Pingyang the man with the rolls of shirtings tapped a Japanese gendarme on the shoulder and nodded in the direction of the blind beggar. A few minutes later, very quietly, a couple of ordinary-looking Korean labourers happened to collide accidentally with the blind man, apologised, led him gently aside, and he was a prisoner in a Japanese guard-house the next moment; searched, and numbers of useful and interesting memoranda were found concealed in his straw shoes. The cotton-merchant and the blind beggar both disappeared, but the former still lives and flourishes.

This illustrates how the Russians were so inferior in their information. Their secret service is hopelessly outclassed by the Japanese

who play with them as a cat with a mouse or an angler with a fish; the fish may escape, once in a while, but at most he cannot catch the angler.

In a similar way, General Kuroki played with General Kastalinsky. One day there would be a Japanese reconnaissance just below Antung, it would be made to appear as if the crossing of the river was to be seriously attempted there. At break-neck speed messengers would chase up and down the Russian lines, getting ready to make a determined resistance here, and when the whole line was worked up to a fever-heat of expectation and a considerable degree of exhaustion with running hither and thither, news would be received that there was a small party of Japanese already across the Yalu twelve miles above Antung, near Li-tsu-yuen. Russian reinforcements had then to be hurried off in that direction, to prevent the enemy from getting a foothold; and when they got there, they would find that the Japanese had already gone back to their own side of the river. Thus went the merry game of "Keep them guessing."

Ever since the Japanese advance scouts ventured into Wiju, to find out whether the place was really clear of Russians, the islands which have grown up in the sluggish Yalu below Wiju, and convert the river into a miniature delta, or at any rate a tangle of meandering loops and back reaches, formed a sort of happy hunting ground where venturesome Japanese and Cossack scouting parties played hide-and-seek in deadly earnest. The islands spread out something like a string of boats moored offshore, a line of them on each side of the river, with narrow streams (sometimes only dry sandy beds at low tide) between them and the big main stream in the middle. When the Russians left Wiju, and began entrenching on the opposite bank, they put outposts on all the islands; but the Japanese gradually crept forward till all the islands on the Korean side were in their possession. On April 21st, however, the Russians made a reconnaissance in considerable force among the Japanese islands. There had been some scores of junks collected at Antung for weeks past, and at daylight the Russians were seen crowding into these and crossing the central stream. It was a foolish thing to do, for they were not in force enough to stand any chance against a serious Japanese attack, and they were putting themselves into a very awkward position. The Japanese very sensibly let the Russians land on the islands just below Wiju, and then about three times as many Japanese crept quietly round along the mainland, and got the Russians between cross-fires of musketry and made the islands too hot to hold them. There was nothing for it but to scramble back aboard the junks, under a rain of bullets, and scull away to the opposite shore as fast as the boats could be driven. The retiring party could not do much firing back, until they were right off shore, and even then it was quite ineffectual, as the Japanese could keep cover. About twenty Russians were found dead on one of the islands, and among those in the junks there must have been many that had been hit and were helped away by their comrades.

It may have been the intention of the Russians simply to ascertain whether the Japanese were in considerable force or not; but if so, the information was obtained in a clumsy and costly way. It could hardly have been the intention to effect a serious landing on the Japanese side, with a few unwieldy junks crammed with men, in face of a whole army well covered. The entire manoeuvre seems to have been a rather unintelligent one on the part of the Russians.

As the boats cleared away from the shore, the Russian cannon on the Tiger's Head hill boomed sullenly, and a few shells came over towards the Japanese islands, but fell short. The islands are over three miles downstream from the fort, and the Russians seemed unable to make good practice at such a long range.

On the 26th the Japanese sent a body of several hundred troops across the Yalu at a point about four miles above Wiju, and attacked a chain of small Russian outposts on some low islands there, at the junction of a large tributary of the Yalu. This move again illustrated the enormous value of the superior Japanese Intelligence Department. Any belligerent trying to act on the defensive along a

very extended line is obviously unable to have a very large force at every point, and so the Japanese simply ascertain what force there is at any place, and send an attacking party overwhelmingly superior. This is quite easy when the Russians leave themselves so poorly informed of the Japanese movements, and wait to be attacked instead of attacking. The Japanese had boats enough for a force outnumbering these Russian outposts by three to one, but the Russians never knew this until the fight was practically decided. The Japanese got across the water in the pitchy darkness of 3 a.m., and had landed on the Russian side before they were discovered. The firing immediately became brisk on all sides, but whereas the Russians were mostly aiming at random into the blackness of night, the Japanese had a fairly good idea where to aim. Artillery of course was out of the question in these circumstances, and as the Russians do not have such a deep-rooted tradition as the Japanese have against running away in battle, the islands were entirely left to the attacking party by seven o'clock that morning. From these islands, the Japanese pushed on and occupied the little town of Li-tsu-yuen, which is divided from Chulien-cheng by the tributary of the Yalu mentioned above, and threatens the north flank of the Tiger Head position.

Then followed a little incident that might almost be called by-play. The Japanese made a feint of bridging the Yalu just below Li-tsu-yuen and well within range of Tiger Head fort. When the fort opened fire on the boats that were being ostentatiously got ready, the Japanese artillery replied vigorously, and there ensued a furious cannonade on both sides. It resulted in a little damage to native huts in the town of Wiju by Russian shells, and considerable damage to the boats that were within the sight of the Russians. Meanwhile the Japanese were quietly going ahead with their real move, further down the river, behind the islands of Hushan and Sungkong, where the Russians could see nothing. Sungkong is nearest to the Korean shore, and runs parallel with it, along a very zigzag course, for about two miles or more. Hushan runs more or less parallel with the Manchurian shore, and lies partly abreast of Sungkong, partly further down towards Antung. From Tiger Head, the northern ends of the two islands only can be seen, where the river splits into three. The Japanese had some small gun-boats creating a diversion below Antung, and pretending to mask a bridging movement there. Between these different alarms the Russians were completely outwitted, and the main body of the Japanese army moved over to Sungkong absolutely without the Russians suspecting anything.

From Sungkong to Hushan Island was almost equally easy, and by evening of the 30th April the Japanese army was well established on the Russian side of the river and was silently creeping into position for a grand assault on the whole of the Russian defences at daylight next morning. It is a weird and exciting thing, this stealthy midnight manoeuvring right under the nose of the unsuspecting foe. A stumble, a gun going off by accident, might ruin everything and cause a dreadful disaster. And how wonderful is the value of knowledge!—to know where the enemy's sentries are, and to feel that he has not equal knowledge of his antagonist's position!

From about 2 a.m. the Japanese were on the move, quietly lining up to storm the Russian trenches, on the low land stretching back from the river a mile or two, gradually rising to gently undulating hills around Chulien-cheng, with an abrupt headland where Tiger Hill overlooks the river. The land is all under cultivation, and the fields are all clear at this season. There are a few trees here and there, but the best cover is afforded by the little watercourses, mostly dry, and the innumerable little declivities from field to field, characteristic of Far Eastern agriculture. It is by no means easy to make one's way about these fields in the dark, but slowly and carefully, it was accomplished in perfect order.

The Japanese force was divided into four sections, the fourth being the reserve; this comprised chiefly the troops that had done the preliminary fighting of April 28, 29 and 30. The other three sections were directed to advance in parallel columns, under cover of night, as

near the Russian lines as they could get without being observed, and spread themselves out, ready to advance in open order all along the line as soon as the artillery fire should cease. The Russian line had been drawn back some distance, varying from half a mile to a mile and a half, from the river bank, which had been found too much exposed to the fire of the Japanese artillery at Wiju and the islands, besides the gun-boats, which kept coming up past Antung.

The withdrawal of the Russian main line of defence had left the Tiger Head position somewhat exposed, and if the line could be rolled back a little more, the fort would be left isolated, and would either be abandoned or cut off and captured. For cannon without infantry to protect them can do nothing at close quarters.

A few minutes before five o'clock there was enough daylight to begin shelling, and the Japanese began before the Russians were properly awake. The attacking force of course knew precisely what ranges they had taken up, and so they got in a good many well-placed shots before the Russians were able to get the right range for reply. Then the shelling was fast and furious, for the next two hours, without a moment's lull. To be in the midst of a wholesale bombardment, where there are 100 or 150 guns on each side, is at first an awful experience; then bewildering; then wearisome, and finally almost absurd. At first the roar and crash, the volleys and thunders seem quite overpowering. But after five or ten minutes, one cannot help noticing that the world still exists despite the terrific tumult; and one observes that the enemy appears to live through it. As time passes, the enormous physical impression created by the shock to the ear drums grows less, and the calm perception of the comparative smallness of the damage grows clearer. Thus, for instance, I say to myself, "We are not getting hurt much, and the enemy also seems to continue as if not much hurt." Yet, while it was true that the Russian artillery did hardly any damage to the Japanese, we found afterwards that the Japanese had indeed been far more effective.

About half-past seven the Russian guns had mostly ceased firing, and the infantry in the long lines of trenches seemed to have retired some distance into the hills behind Chulien-cheng. They were still not far away, and were keeping up a tremendous fire, but it seemed a little further off than it had been at first. General Kuroki therefore ordered a general advance, and gallantly did the Japanese soldiers respond. It was their first big fight with European troops, and every man was keen to show that he was not afraid of Europe or of all the world.

The Russians also were full of dogged determination. This was the very thing they had excelled in, traditionally, this sticking to their trenches and taking punishment unflinchingly. Brilliance in attack was no Russian *moujik's* strong point, but stolid, patient, heroic immovability in face of attack. So they held their fire till the Japanese were within 500 yards, and then the whole Russian line blazed forth from end to end. It was here that the Japanese lost terribly, but they too have their traditions, not of passive resistance or dogged defence, but of fierce, furious onslaught in the face of certain death. And magnificently they lived up to their traditions. Taking open order and making the most of every little bit of cover, they crept on, inch by inch, firing carefully, Boer fashion, from behind every little mud-heap in the fallow fields, every little hollow and hummock, and each man vying with his neighbour in the persistent advance up the slope of the hills to get at the famous Russian troops.

It was fortunate for the Japanese "Tommyes" that they had clever Generals, who had managed to out-manceuvre the enemy. Slowly but surely it was seen that the Japanese left wing had quite outflanked the Russian right and was curling round it and crumpling it back. It took time; to walk the distance, with no battle in full swing, would be a matter of 40 or 50 minutes, and when one is dodging bullets all the time it takes hours. When he thinks fit, a Japanese will advance without thought of dodging bullets, but this was not the time for recklessness; this was the time to remember that a soldier is more useful alive than dead as a rule. So they went slowly.

But the Russians were helpless, despite their genuine bravery. The Russian military traditions are all in the direction of justifying a retirement under certain conditions, and undoubtedly the conditions were fulfilled in this case. It was clear that the enemy was too strong, and the Russian policy of falling back was put in practice.

Little by little, the Japanese pressed forward, and as they swarmed up the slopes they seemed from a distance like so many thousands of ants hurrying to seize a prize. The Russians did not wait for bayonet practice; they saw they were hopelessly outnumbered, so they retired before the musketry fire. They fell back in good order as far as Chuliencheng, but in passing through its narrow and winding streets and lanes to gain the high road to Fenghwangcheng, they fell into disorder, which degenerated for a time into a rout. This, however, was only temporary, and they recovered themselves sufficiently to make matters very hot for a flying column of Japanese who followed up the retreat. The Japanese had occupied Chuliencheng about 1 p.m., and a force of about a thousand men went along the Fenghwangcheng road to reconnoitre, when they suddenly came under fire, about six miles out, and lost over three hundred before they got away back. The Russians made no attempt to improve the occasion, but continued on their way to Fenghwangcheng, a distance of about forty miles, which would take them two days full.

While the main body of the Russians was in full retreat, a section of artillery on Tiger Head hill was left in the lurch. About twenty guns with the survivors of their companies did manage to get away with the general retreat, but they constituted only about half of the total Russian artillery at Tiger Head. The Japanese in their triumphant advance on the line of hills around and behind Chuliencheng had rather given Tiger Head the go-by, but a large part of the centre column was diverted from the forward movement to take the hill in flank and rear, while the extreme right of the Japanese line converged on the opposite side of the hill. The Russians, thus surrounded and cut off, stuck to their guns and fought bravely till it was useless to resist further: nearly one-third of their number had fallen, and there were only three or four hundred of them left, against several thousands of Japanese now within pistol-shot, and none could tell how many more thousands a mile or two further away across the plain.

It was another Majuba. As the Japanese scrambled up the hill, they saw a piece of what had once been a white canvas tent, hoisted on a reversed Cossack spear. It was enough. Chanting their war-song, gasping for breath with the rush up the hillside, pleased and proud and in the seventh heaven of delight, the plucky little Japanese went up and planted their dearly loved banner of the Rising Sun on top of the fort, and cheered till their throats nearly cracked—and then, with quiet dignity and most perfect courtesy, saluted the vanquished foes for the bravery they had displayed in face of overwhelming odds. It was a well-deserved honour to the gallant Russians, and it is to the honour of the Japanese that they gave such hearty recognition. For a long time there was nobody who could act as interpreter, but as soon as one was found, the Russians were treated with every kindness. Out of about 350 who surrendered, it was found that nearly one-third were wounded, some very badly indeed.

Altogether the Russians had over a thousand killed. How many wounded they carried away, there is no knowing. The prisoners are numerous, for besides the artillerymen captured at Tiger Head, there are small parties being picked up from time to time, men who have been on outpost at various places and found themselves entirely cut off when the Russian army retired. Some also who were in the fight and the rout have lagged, and then turned back to come into the Japanese camp and give themselves up, as they have had enough of fighting. They need not be blamed; a man may be brave beyond all telling, and yet hate and detest war.

I do not know how anyone who has seen the dead on a battlefield, and the pitiful, horrible sights, can help hating it.

NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN.

We are in a position to state that the Japanese Government is about to issue another loan, one of 100,000,000 yen, bearing 5 per cent. interest. The loan will be for seven years and will be issued at 92.

The calls will be made as follows:—

On application	2 yen
July	10 yen each month
September	
October	
November	
December	5 yen
January	15 yen each month
February	
March	45 yen

Total 92 yen

Application can be made between the 10th and 16th June and the local agents will be the Yokohama Specie Bank.

A SCARE AT MACAO.

Considerable sensation was caused in Hongkong on the 26th inst. by the rumour of possible trouble occurring in Macao between the Portuguese Government and the Chinese Government on account of the former refusing to extradite the ex-Namhoi Magistrate Poi, who fled to Macao when he was recalled from his post by the Canton Viceroy to give an account of his stewardship. When his extradition was requested, the Macao authorities took the necessary steps for his arrest, and he was afterwards put upon his trial there. But the Viceroy, it is alleged, was not satisfied with having the extradition effected in the ordinary way, and sent a demand for the summary extradition of the Magistrate, backing this up by despatching to Macanese waters four small gunboats and two torpedo-boats. For the past few days they have been lying off Barra Forts. Only one Portuguese warship, the gun-boat *Diu*, is in the harbour; there is reported to be great activity in the forts. That any serious development should occur is exceedingly unlikely. The Chinese warcraft are mostly obsolete, while the Portuguese forts are very well armed. The most disquieting news that was in circulation yesterday was that the Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor*, which left here for Shanghai on Tuesday, had been recalled. H.M.S. *Robin* is also at Macao. She is not coming down to coal at present, her supply having been taken up by the s.s. *Heungshan* on the 26th.

The scare now seems to be at an end, but one Chinese gunboat still remains at Macao. The extradition proceedings which have been taken against the ex-Magistrate of Namhoi are still proceeding.

WALKS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

A HOLIDAY RAMBLE.

The ordinary Hongkong resident is woefully ignorant of our New Territory, mostly because of the difficulty that exists in getting there. When once we have a railway established there can be little doubt that the people of Victoria will not be slow to make acquaintance with the beauties of Mirs Bay and of the verdant valleys of the peninsula. Meanwhile, however, if one should desire to see the country one has got to trust to one's own legs for locomotion, and as there are very great difficulties to be overcome by the pedestrian who ventures on an exploring trip it is not to be wondered at that these generally dissuade people from the venture of making an extended tour in that region. But there are many walks in the New Territory that can be accomplished easily in one day and yet serve to give the traveller a very fine insight into the nature of the country and to repay him an hundred-fold for any fatigue and discomfort that he may have undergone on the journey. For in weather like the present walking among the Territory hills is a task of no little severity. In winter time, when the chill winds blow among the gorse, and nerve the traveller to exertion, walking is a pleasure, and the resultant glow which he feels upon his skin is a pleasure to be remembered. In these days, however, when a

broiling sun beats down from an unclouded sky upon him, and a heavy topee encumbers his head, the conditions are changed to a very appreciable degree, and he feels that he deserves some compensation for his exertions.

At present that compensating pleasure is to be found, in any part of the New Territory, in the wondrous colours of the valleys. Once attain an eminence from which the countryside is visible all round the horizon, and your eye is feasted and delighted with every shade of verdancy; and if only the view takes in a blue bight of the sea, the effect is heightened to such an extent that it is with regret you raise your eyes from the contemplation of its charms.

If desirous of a short trip into this country, one can never go far wrong in fixing upon Kowloon City as a base of operations. Rickshas are easily obtainable up to that point, and when once the quaint (and dirty) town is passed there is quite a variety of routes to tempt the walker. For those who do not care about hill-climbing there is the shore road leading away round Kowloon Bay and Lyeemoon Pass. Hill-climbers will be more attracted by the steep old highway that runs straight up the mountain-side between the frowning Lion's Head and majestic Ngtau Kok. But of all the paths that may be chosen there is one that will appeal to most as offering the advantages of a pleasantly easy ascent and ever-recurring fine views. This is the road that goes round the bay beyond Kowloon City and runs through the villages of Ngaushiwan and Ngantaukok before it commences to go up the hill. From the paddy-fields, glorious in their greenery, this road runs up the slope some two miles before the summit is attained. When the top is in sight and just at the point where the old Customs House comes into view, there is a path branching off to the right, a granite-built path used for years innumerable as a highway by the farmers and village people of the district. The main path leading right up the hill is not devoid of attractions, for if you should follow it and go on past the Customs House for a mile or so you open up Saikung Valley and the broad bosom of Port Shelter; but it is the branching-off path which attracts our footsteps to day. Here there is no chance of encountering even the most nomadic of Hongkong-ites. A great silence pervades the place. Only an occasional grass-cutter with her burden lends animation to the scene, and the silence is made all the more marked by the rippling song of the clear brook that accompanies us down hill. As we get farther down into the valleys towards the sea, we find that the stream opens out into a broad pool whose cool depths and dancing current at once suggest a bath. And very pleasant is the dip. It puts an edge, too, on our appetites, and there and then we proceed to make our midday meal on a loaf of brown bread bought in Kowloon and a tin of sardines. It was a meal to be remembered with gratitude till the end of our days, and as we partook of it we thought with pity of the poor deluded creatures who were spending their holiday in playing billiards in Hongkong or fantan in Macao.

The rest of the journey was equally enjoyable to the first part. The advantage of this route is that it is circular, so that one does not have to traverse the same country twice over, and also one makes the journey as long or as short as one pleases by cutting down any of the valleys to the sea and coming back to Kowloon by the shore road. Some of the valleys hereabout are of remarkable beauty, filled with fine old trees, banyan and camphor, and alive with feathered inhabitants—partridge, turtle-doves, and smaller fry. On the way back to Kowloon City by the beach one finds new objects of interest or attention at every step, and it is with a feeling of something like regret one sees the blue ensign fluttering in the near distance from the Police Station, denoting that here the rickshas await us to carry us back to dingy Hongkong and our daily drudgery at the office desk.

Mr. C. H. P. Hay, formerly of Hongkong, has won the May competition for the Butterworth Cup at the Shanghai Golf Club. His score was 94—10—84. Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie, another ex-Hongkong golfer, was third with a score of 88+2=90.

THE DALLAS CO. AT THE THEATRE.

Those in the audience at the Theatre on the 21st inst. who had not seen *A Chinese Honeymoon* at the Strand Theatre in London, where it ran for something like seven hundred nights, must have wondered what the London play-going public saw in the piece to become so enraptured with it. The music, though pretty, has not attained the same vogue as the music of *The Geisha* or *The Belle of New York* or several other musical comedies of recent years, and we conclude that primarily the chief attraction for the play-going public of London was the Oriental setting of the piece. That feature of the play does not, of course, possess the same attraction for a Hongkong audience. With a strong cast, however, the play does not depend entirely on its Oriental setting for its success. There is fine scope for good acting in it, and those who saw the inimitable Louie Freear in the part of Fi Fi will concede this feature to have been the second cause of the play's astonishing success. This part was very well taken in the performance on Saturday by Miss Alice Wade. Mr. Percival Knight, the principal comedian of the company, took the part of Pineapple, the Benedict on a honeymoon tour in China. His song "Happy Land," with its intoned patter after each verse, was vastly appreciated, and although he repeated the last verse, the house demanded more, but had reluctantly to be satisfied with the bowing of the artist in acknowledgment. Miss Wade's song "I want to be a Lydy" was almost equally well received. The sentimental duet by Miss Ernestine Walker and Mr. Frank Cochrane was well sung and cordially applauded. The part of the Emperor in the piece was taken by Mr. Rees, and that of Lord High Admiral by Mr. Riley. In the second act Miss Carrie Roberts introduced a *dans-fantastique* which was very well done and elicited general applause.

On Monday night the Dallas Company introduced a novelty in their programme, abandoning musical comedy for once in favour of drama or melodrama—whichever we should call Wilson Barrett's *The Sign of the Cross*. The experiment might seem odd to those who have hitherto only seen the Dallas Co. in musical pieces, but we must say at once that it was a successful experiment. The cast was very well filled, and, whatever we may think of the merits of the play, great London success as it was, the Dallas Co. introduced it to Hongkong in creditable fashion. Mr. Percival Knight's Marcus Superbus was an excellent bit of acting, though very different from his ordinary style. We should like to see him in other pieces of a different character from musical comedy, good as he always is in the latter. Messrs. Cochrane, Rees, and Munro backed their leader up well in the parts of Nero, Tigellinus, and Glabrio, and the ladies' characters were safe in the hands of Misses Alice Wade, Frampton, Hunter, and Desmond, while Miss Carrie Roberts was effective as Stephanus. An excellent house witnessed the performance, considering the heat of the evening.

On Tuesday *Three Little Maids* was staged again, the occasion being the last appearance here this season of the Company, and also Mr. Percival Knight's benefit.

NEW TERRITORY NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

24th May.

SEIZURE OF ARMS AND OPIUM.

Sergt. Gerrard in executing an opium warrant in a Chinaman's house in a small village outside of Sheungshui found in his possession in addition to the opium a six-chambered revolver with ammunition and a musket. He was brought before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, the Magistrate at Tai-po on the 21st who fined him \$23 for possession of the opium and \$250 or three months and 6 hours exposure in the stocks on the road leading from Sheungshui to Sanchun at the Gap where the tea-house is. It appears that he has been suspected of being a bad character for a long time and they have been waiting to catch him at something. I saw him yesterday in the stocks and he is a

man of a most villainous aspect. The raid was made on the night of the 20th.

CROPS.

The crops are flourishing and everything is looking verdant; the farmers anticipate a good season.

28th May.

AGRICULTURE.

Rain is wanted very badly. Incessant labour is required with the hand rotary pumps to keep the fields flooded. Many fields have not been planted with rice for want of water. The sweet potato-crop when raised exceeded expectations. The crop results were splendid. It was feared the long dry winter had spoiled the growth of the potatoes, but the first rains came early in the spring and worked wonders. The "Wo Suk" (a kind of bird-seed), which is grown plentifully around Shamchun and elsewhere, is now being cut. Peanuts are growing splendidly, and promise a good yield. The fruit on the lichee, peach, and pear trees is now about half-grown and fruit promises to be abundant, but rain must come soon.

Cattle and pigs are exceptionally free from disease this year so far. There is excellent grass for the cattle on the hills which were burned in winter.

CROWN RENT.

The Government, after long suffering at the hands of reluctant rent-payers, has now assumed a firmer attitude. The farmers have found themselves suddenly threatened with distress warrants. The quick departure from the old lenient methods practised by the Government of late years proved an unelcome surprise to many, and the farmers are now paying in their rent-dues in coin mouldy with long keeping. Had the Government adopted a firm attitude at the start much trouble might have been averted.

POLICE.

Following the excellent example set by Mr. Sercombe Smith in Hongkong, Mr. Wolfe, the Tai-po Magistrate, has introduced the stocks in the New Territory. Criminals have already been exposed in the stocks at Unlong, Santin, Sheungshui, and Tai-po. Taken as a whole the country is very quiet. Fights in some districts are frequent about the use of irrigating streams. A serious one took place the other day at Santin; as a result one man is now in hospital. Prosecutions for possession of illicit opium are frequent.

CHINESE TERRITORY.

The Chinese over the border are all of the idea that at some near date the British will take over the remainder of San On. This rumour (too good to be true) is raising the hopes of respectable traders over the border, but is ill received by the keepers of gambling and opium dens. Robberies are still frequent around Shamchun. A short while ago the military officer at Lin Tong went with an escort to Sa Wan Village, on the north shores of Deep Bay, to arrest some robbers. The villagers refused to deliver up the robbers, whom they themselves had arrested, and, in front of the officer's eyes, took the robbers from the village gaol, tied them to trees, and shot them. Rumour has it that the villagers suspected the officer of endeavouring to receive "squeeze" from the prisoners' relatives, and so frustrated his designs.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

IMPERIAL EDICTS.

An Imperial Edict was issued on the 17th inst. in response to the memorial presented by Viceroy Shun, who asked the Throne to punish the officers connected with the murder of the false Hung Chuen-Fook in Hongkong. The Edict states that the military officers, named Ho Wai-Chung, Lam Shan, Fong Hing-Kwok, Su Ying-Chun, Lau Kam-Yut, and Chu Cheong (deceased), who had no right to induce persons to proceed to foreign soil to commit the said crime for the purpose of gaining rewards, are to be deprived of their titles and ranks, and dismissed from office, and that Admiral Ho Cheung-Ching is also to be dismissed from office for failing to control the officers from committing such a crime.

Another Imperial edict was issued on the same day appointing Ip Chap-kwai Commandant of the Wan-chow garrisons in Chekiang province, to take the place of Admiral Ho Cheung-Ching.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 19th May.

H. B. M. CONSUL.

Mr. M. Hughes, British Vice-consul at Hoihow, accompanied by Mrs. Hughes, arrived here on the 9th instant. Mr. Hughes will probably remain here until the arrival of Mr. G. W. Pearson, who, I understand, has been appointed Acting Consul at this port.

FRENCH MEN-OF-WAR.

The new French cruiser *Gueydon* and the gunboat *Aspic* arrived here on the 8th instant from Tonkin. The former, owing to her size and draught, did not come into the harbour, but remained outside in the roads. M. Casanave was on board one of the vessels on a visit of inspection of the various French Government institutions in the Far East. The vessels left on the 9th to visit Waichow island, when several members of the French community, including Consul and Madame Flayelle, joined the party, returning on the 10th. The two vessels finally departed for Hoihow on the 11th instant.

A NEW CUSTOMS ASSISTANT.

Mr. E. K. Bull arrived here on the 3rd instant to fill the post of Assistant-in-Charge of General Office in the Customs—left vacant by the departure of Dr. J. H. Lowry, who departed for England at the beginning of April last. In the absence of the usual Medical Officer attached to the Customs, Dr. Sanger, of the Church Missionary Society's Hospital, has consented to act as Medical Officer to the Customs staff.

AN OLD RESIDENT.

Mr. L. Judell, a partner in Messrs. A. Schomburg & Co., who, together with Mrs. Judell, left for a sojourn in Germany last year, returned on the 9th instant. Mrs. Judell will not come back until the autumn.

THE GERMAN CONSUL.

The s.s. *Carl Diederichsen* arrived on the 17th instant for the sole purpose of landing Mr. H. von Varchmin, who left for Hongkong a few weeks ago on business.

GERMAN MAN-OF-WAR.

The H.I.G.M. gunboat *Tiger* arrived here yesterday from Hongay and Haiphong.

THE BE BERRY CASE.

The enquiry in connection with this now famous case is not yet concluded. Cheong Kwok-fong was again summoned to Linchow to give evidence, but as he had left the port, a telegram was sent to him to appear; in the meantime a responsible assistant in his shop being retained. Cheong came back on the 9th instant, when he was ordered to proceed to Linchow, taking with him his old account-books. The late magistrate of this place, who is concerned in the case, is still detained at Linchow pending the order of the Canton Viceroy, it is said.

AN ARMED ATTACK.

A native clerk in foreign employ, living in an isolated house in a village not far from the foreign residences, was the victim of an armed attack on the night of the 9th instant. During the affray an inmate of the house received a wound on the head which necessitated his removal to the Church Missionary Hospital for treatment.

CARRIAGE FIGMONS.

Nothing further has transpired with regard to the robbery of these valuable birds from the aviary in the French Consulate compound; not a single arrest has yet been effected in connection with the burglary.

THE WEATHER.

We have been experiencing a boisterous weather for the last few days. From the 13th to the 16th, the wind was equally to the extreme, but there was no rain until the evening of the 16th, when it began to fall in intermittent showers up to the time of writing, the thermometer ranging from 80 to 85 degrees Fahr. all along. The health of the port is

notwithstanding, as good as could be desired. None of the epidemics usual about this time of the season have troubled the inhabitants, nor even a single case of plague, for which this port had become famous—or infamous.

TRADE.

The trade of the port has never been so dull as since the beginning of the year, especially in exports. I shall certainly not be surprised if the Customs Statistics show a decrease of some P10,000 for the first quarter of this year compared with the same period of any previous year.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, P.I., 11th May.

THE COMING REVENUE LAW.

What the ultimate form of the proposed new revenue law will be when it comes up for passage it is hard to conjecture, but that there will be some modifications it is safe to assume in view of the strong protests that have been entered from every interested quarter. Nevertheless the Insular Government has undoubtedly determined upon the legislation of the measure in project in one form or another, as indicated by the tone of official expressions. Interest in the bill is paramount here, affecting as it does local commerce, industries, business, manufactures, occupations, corporations, banking, concessions, and forest and mineral products. It has been pending for a matter of three years, but although under constant consideration by the legislative body has been apparently lost sight of by the public. The bill was introduced for public discussion last month, and brought to the floor of the Session Room an array of protestants representing all of the chief interests involved. Owing to want of time, being on the eve of departure for the summer capital in Benguet, and the long list of claimants for a hearing, the Commission set a period for the filing of written protests, to be fully considered in due season. This period elapsed yesterday, and was marked by the submittal to the Government of the most considerable objection yet offered, in the form of a voluminous petition against the measure in its present form from a committee composed of the presidents of the five Chambers of Commerce.

Of course it is to be expected that any new form of taxation should arouse vigorous opposition from many quarters. Proposed taxation is very rarely without an accompanying storm of opposition. While in the present case the Government, in the person of its Finance Secretary, has virtually promised that the new taxation shall ultimately supplant the present source of revenue, which is derived almost altogether from the Customs imposts, the classes concerned do not seem to see any early prospect of such substitution, and to regard the outlook as rather for increased taxes. The Government, indeed, has declared that the necessity for increased revenue is clearly apparent, and there is no question that the necessity exists.

There are many sides to such a matter. The Government proposes to pave the way to removing the heavy duties on imported goods, which are mainly the necessities of a civilised existence, and thus reduce the excessive cost of living. To this there is the question of how much the native population, to whom the Government is declaredly dedicated, will benefit from the change. Some hold that the American and foreign communities will be the chief gainers; others that the Filipinos will profit most. It is true, however, that every stitch of clothing (however much that may be), excepting head and foot-wear, that the Filipino wears is imported to the Islands, and, on the other hand, the major portion of American subsistence comes to their tables through the Custom House. Then, the Government proposes to tax luxuries, the productions of capital, financial enterprises, corporations, businesses, manufactures, etc., and to this the objection is raised that capital will be discouraged and labour and commercial development materially suffer in consequence.

One of the terms of the Commerce Chambers' joint petition is that the rates are excessive and that the condition of the country will not stand them. It is probably true that the present

administration is the most expensive the Philippines has yet had to support, but I am not with those who believe that stagnated industry and depressed business is the present state of affairs. During nearly six years of American occupation I can only recall two failures of business firms; both were speculative concerns: one endeavoured to corner the local hemp market, and the other to obtain control of the principal businesses by a system of promotion with a view to unloading them on the advent of a post bellum boom. Hitherto business, in the general use of the word, has sustained little or no taxation, and if industry was stagnated by the war it is now livening up right along. But without going into the matter the Customs receipts and consular reports show that on the one hand imports have increased since the establishment of American rule, and on the other that there has been no serious falling off of exports. As regards the cost of administration, while there are undoubtedly more bureaus and more officials with higher salaries, the annual appropriations and expenditures clearly show that more revenue is being spent for the people than ever in their history. With new communications being continually opened up in the provinces and the gradual picking up of agriculture the prospect is indeed hopeful and favourable rather than otherwise to standing the new taxation. The petition in question, by the way, has not been made public, but I am informed of its principal terms by one of the committee. It claims that the law as drafted is too similar to that in force in the United States and has not been sufficiently fitted to local conditions. One thing is quite clear, which is that the proposed bill does not affect the producing or labouring class, which make up the bulk of the population. It is easily admitted that the industry of the Islands is agricultural, and it has been affirmed by every class that they need most the development of their rich agricultural resources. The bill specifically exempts "persons whose manufactures consist solely in harvesting and getting in proper condition for their own use or for sale the products of their own," and it is plain that it is intended that the financial concerns, commercial plants, manufacturers and corporations—in other words those who reap the greatest profits from their enterprises—shall render their full share of financial support to the Government. Misinterpretation of this purpose may have given rise to the assertion from some quarters of a belief that the Government is aiming at some of the larger concerns, which is of course absurd.

The protests are mainly from special interests that will be affected by the bill, such as manufacturers of tobacco, cigars, liquors, beer, matches, etc., and particularly corporations. This last element of opposition claims that the law will give the Government too much inquisitorial power; that is to say, that it will be enabled to probe too much into the workings of the corporations, which it maintains is unjust and improper. This I am not prepared to discuss, except to say that the American popular spirit has always been in favour of liberal daylight on the methods and operations of incorporated concerns of extensive money-making capability—a matter that has caused considerable political agitation in the home country.

There is one apparent oversight in the bill. It is that no provision is made for the taxation, out of bond, of articles of luxury imported to compete with local productions, such as cigarettes and cigars, as is provided in the corresponding law of the United States. This is bound to place local products at a serious disadvantage.

The enormous *tax*, or peasant class, which is a heavy consumer of cigarettes, will virtually pay the cigarette-tax, since cigarettes for export are exempt, and this, it is thought, will work a hardship on a class which should be most protected. Smoking can scarcely be called a luxury with the native. In a country that is rich in tobacco-production he is an inveterate smoker from childhood, in the literal sense of the word, and it is almost a natural part of his existence. Nevertheless, this will be a slight burden in proportion, inasmuch as with the annual two peso personal tax it will be the only imposition on the working class.

The petition of the allied Chambers of Commerce suggests that the proposed bill in a modi-

fied form might be acceptable, but it is not supposed by those best informed that any radical change will be made in it. The Commission has given its assurance that every protest will receive careful consideration and just treatment at its hands, yet it unquestionably regards the opposition as that of each special interest seeking to protect itself. Its result in eventually replacing the import duties will surely be watched with interest by foreign exporters to the Philippines, and the local population will similarly watch the result in prices.

Manila, P.I., 18th May.

THE GOMEZ CASE.

The acquittal of Dr. Dominador Gomez and Buenaventura Kabalza created somewhat of a surprise here, although those who have followed the case closely and studied it from a legal standpoint assert that it was only to be expected. Such a mass of evidence, all of a strongly prejudicial character, has been introduced during the wearisome thrashing out of testimony, that the ordinary newspaper-reading public had come to take it for granted that conviction must follow. While the evidence of the prosecution leaves little room to doubt that Dr. Gomez was in opposition to the Government, in this particular case it seems that it did not sustain the special character of the charge. As the decision of Judge Ambler explains, the evidence on the count of conspiring to raise a rebellion and that of treason, though insufficient, was enough to demand his censure. Judge Ambler ruled that there was not enough evidence to convict the accused of conspiring to raise a rebellion, and that treason against the United States consists only of levying war against them, adhering to their enemies, or giving aid or comfort to them. The decision points out that insurrection and rebellion are synonymous, and that both are treason. It follows, therefore, that if the former offence had been proved the latter would have been established.

This finding would indicate that there is a flaw in the local law, inasmuch as it is commonly admitted that it was framed to cover such cases as that of Dr. Gomez. According to Judge Ambler that part of the Constitution of the United States providing against the crime of treason is in effect in the Philippines, in that the term "treason against the United States" means "treason, etc." wherever committed. There can be little doubt that the Insular law on the subject, while based on the Constitution, was intended to be more specific in its definition of the crime in order to suit the peculiar local conditions, but in the light of the recent finding of the Court it apparently fails to go any farther than the parent law.

With reference to the handling of the case, while it has been under the direction of the Prosecuting Attorney, most of the actual court work has been done by his two Assistant Prosecutors. These gentlemen are both young men, in years as well as in their profession, so that it is vastly to the credit of their professional talent that they occupy such high positions. It is not at all derogatory to them, however, to say that in the Gomez case they have had to face two very experienced and clever legal opponents who have made the most of their opportunities. Mr. Kincaid, the senior counsel for the defence, has been on the bench many years in his own State, Texas, and has served a term on the Insular Bench. Yet in spite of this difficult opposition they handled a complicated case with great credit in the privately expressed opinion of several members of the judiciary. The only comment seems to be contained in the reference made by Judge Ambler in his decision to the great mass of valueless testimony that was introduced by the prosecution. The opinion rules that had the more salient evidence been sifted before it came to court it might have admitted a more definite line of proof.

This is the second case in which Dr. Gomez has been tried. The first resulted in his conviction of conducting an illegal association in the Union Obrera. That has been appealed, as also has this been appealed by the Government under an old Spanish law still in force, so that neither cases can be said to be concluded. There are still three more cases against this same man to be heard. One is misappropriation of funds (those of the Union); another is *bando-lismo*, which involves the aid said to have been given by Gomez to various bands of outlaws and

his alleged connection with their chiefs; and the third is *c-tafu*, a general term in the Philippine laws for fraud, which will mean an effort to prove that the accused obtained money under false pretences. The prosecution of this man has already cost the Government a large sum, and there is still greater cost to the public treasury in prospect. It is needless to say that if the Supreme Court sustains the decision to the present case it will establish an important precedent, and one that will allow greater latitude to a certain not too well-meaning class.

The native and Spanish Press appear to consider Messrs. Kincaid's and Del Pan's legal victory over the Government a great feat, several devoting much space to a rehearsal of the case and eulogisms for the counsel as well as the judge, as though the latter had done other than perform an impartial duty. One newspaper publishes their photographs. Possibly it is something new in the Philippine annals to defeat the Government in a law case of this character; perhaps it was rare in former days; but if so the native people have something yet to learn about the fairness of Anglo-Saxon justice, and this instance may serve to have a beneficial effect on the unfriendly element.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1903.

The report of Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, for the year 1903 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$160,351.81, as against \$136,888.13 collected in 1902, being an increase of \$23,463.68.

The number of Chinese who were granted certificates of identity to enable them to enter the Philippine Islands increased from 43 in 1902 to 119 in 1903. The increase to the revenue under the heading certificates to Chinese entering Manila and the U.S.A. is \$1,650.00. Market revenue shows a further increase of \$9,315.81. All markets with the exception of Taikokt-ai share in the increase. The revenue from the Des Vœux Market, which is situated in Des Vœux Road Central near Wing Shing Street, and was opened in September, was \$1,824.16, but this revenue will not be maintained. There is very little demand for stalls, and most of the original lessees have already surrendered their holdings. Fees under the Marriage Ordinance show an increase of \$997.00 and under the regulations for emigration houses one of \$1,350.00. The revenue from hawkers' licences shows an increase of \$8,722.00. In August the regulations governing the issue of hawkers' licences were altered. Previous to that date the licence fee, which was \$2.00, was paid quarterly. The fee has now been raised to \$4.00 and is paid half-yearly. The number of licences issued during the last quarter of the year was 5,997 compared with 7,773 in the last quarter of 1902.

The expenditure during the year was \$26,755.64, compared with \$24,230.33 in 1902. The increase is due to various increases of salary to some of the members of the staff and to regular increments of salary to others.

PO LEUNG KUK INCORPORATION ORDINANCE

There has been a very large increase in the number of women and girls whom the Registrar-General had reason to believe required protection. 826 persons were admitted to the Po Leung Kuk during the year, compared with 617 in 1902. The disturbed state of parts of the Canton Province, the famine in Kwangsi, and certain restrictions imposed on the boats at Canton, are some of the causes to which this increase is due.

EMIGRATION.

One hundred and forty-four emigrants were detained for inquiries, and the usual arrangements were made for restoring to their friends and relatives those who were found to have been persuaded to emigrate under false pretences. During the year 1903, six hotels and seven emigration houses (for men only) were licensed. At the end of the year there were 50 hotels and 16 emigration houses holding licences.

CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY TO CHINESE.

The revenue derived from this source was \$3,925 compared with \$2,275 in 1902. The

number of certificates issued during the year was:—

To the United States	19
To the Hawaiian Islands	0
To the Philippines	119

The number of certificates issued for the Philippines in 1902 was 43.

POPULATION.

The following is an estimate of the population of the Colony, exclusive of the New Territory, on the 30th June, 1903:—

British and Foreign Community	18,581
Chinese	307,500

Total 326,081

The population of the New Territory, according to the census taken in 1901, was 102,254.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages solemnised during the year was 146, as compared with 120 in 1902.

BIRTHS.

The births registered during the year were as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese	521	228	749
Non-Chinese	150	135	285
	671	343	1,034

This is equal to a general birth-rate of 3.17 per 1,000, as compared with 3.8 in 1902.

The birth-rate among the non-Chinese community alone was 18.2 per 1,000 as compared with 12.6 per 1,000 in 1902. The nationalities of the non-Chinese parents were as follows:—British 118, Portuguese 75, Indian 38, Malay 13, German 11, French 5, Spanish 3, Austrian, Japanese, and Persian 2 each, and five other nationalities 1 each.

The number of the Chinese births registered does not give an accurate record of the total number of births of Chinese that have occurred in the Colony, for many of the infants that die during the first month or so of life remain unregistered, although their deaths must be registered to obtain the necessary burial orders. It has been customary, therefore, to add to the registered births the number of infants of one month old and under that die in the various convents, or are found by the police in the streets or in the harbour. The number during 1903 was 250 males and 276 females, making a total of 530, and the addition of these figures to the registered Chinese births gives a total of 1,279 as compared with 1,569 during the previous year. The corrected birth-rate is, therefore, 4.7 per 1,000, while among the Chinese alone the rate becomes 4.2 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths in the British and Foreign Community was 309, as compared with 352 in 1902. The number of deaths among the Chinese was 5,875 as compared with 6,431 in 1902. Four Europeans and 1,251 Chinese and other Asiatics died from plague.

The number of deaths in hospital amount to 1,486, or 24 per cent. of the total number of deaths registered during the year.

PERMITS.

The nature and number of permits issued during the year were as follows:—

To fire crackers	512
To hold processions	28
To perform theatricals	39
To hold religious ceremonies	40

Total 619

DISTRICT WATCHMEN.

Convictions were obtained before the police magistrate during the year through the instrumentality of district watchmen. The contributions to the fund for the year were \$22,495.29 as compared with \$17,461.69 in 1902, being an increase of \$5,033.60. This is due chiefly to the increased rate at which contributions are paid. The increase came into force in July, 1902. The expenditure for the year was \$17,540.37. Included in this sum are \$3,000, a refund of a Government loan, \$1,372.39 for uniform and equipment, \$435.83 for loss on exchange. The balance to the credit of the fund on the 31st December was \$12,415.05.

CHINESE RECREATION GROUND.

The total expenditure for the year was \$508.27. The revenue obtained from the lease of shops, &c., was \$1,359.82, compared with \$1,257.02 in 1902. The balance to the credit of the fund is \$4,509.75.

TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

The new wing of the hospital in Tai-ping-shan was opened on the 26th March. The Infectious Disease Hospital at Kennedy Town was opened on the 6th June, but a laundry and some other out-buildings are not completed owing to difficulties with the contractor. The financial position of the hospital is much more satisfactory than it was two years ago. An influential Committee was appointed in 1902 to inquire into and report on the finances of the hospital, and with its support it has been found possible to considerably increase the amount of subscriptions and the revenue from the hospital's property. Hitherto the only annual subscribers to the hospital have been the various guilds, but on the recommendation of the Finance Committee a new departure was made and individual subscriptions invited. In answer to the appeal 54 gentlemen have promised subscriptions of a hundred dollars a year and 10 of fifty. A welcome addition to the revenue of the hospital has been made by the Government grant of \$6,000 a year.

The number of patients under treatment at the Tung Wa Hospital during the year (Mr. Brewin states under another heading) was 2,457 as compared with 2,730 in 1902. Of these, 1,569 were discharged and 889 died. The percentage of deaths compared with admissions during the year was 36.2. In 1902 the percentage was 45.34, and in 1901 24.40. The number of out-patients during the year was:—Males, 49,376; Females, 23,467, Total, 2,843.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1903.

The report of Dr. W. W. Pearse, Acting Medical Officer of Health, for 1903 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

The geographical situation of the Colony just within the northern tropic (N. 22 deg. 5 min.) and its relation to the mainland of the southern part of the Chinese Empire, the annual cycle of meteorological phenomena, the configuration of the island of Hongkong and its geological formation, all combine to produce a state of things which, summed up under the word Climate, must have directly a great, though perhaps a not easily perceptible, effect on the health of the inhabitants.

Although Hongkong is an island, yet its proximity to the mainland modifies the solar climate considerably. The range of temperature throughout the year is considerable, yet it is not so great as is found to be the case in places not very far inland in the Kwangtung Province. The effect of the ocean is seen in that the highest monthly mean was only 82° F, while the effect of the proximity of the mainland of South China is felt in the comparatively low temperatures in the first two months of the year, when the mean temperatures were 58° 3 and 58° 4 respectively. The highest rise of the thermometer therefore in the hot season is small when compared with that which occurs in Calcutta, which is in about the same latitude, and the cool bright days of the cold season are, considering the low latitude of the Colony, a wonderful advantage from a climatic point of view.

There is no doubt, however, that the condition of the atmosphere in the City of Victoria is during the summer months very depressing. This is due to a great extent to the high percentage of moisture in the air at the same time when the temperature is high. But there are, in my opinion, other factors to be considered. The position of the City of Victoria on the northern side of the Island and at the foot of high hills cuts it off to a great extent from the influence of the prevailing winds of the hot season, and moreover the crowding together of the houses owing to the steepness of the site of the City and the lack of room for expansion, the resulting narrow streets, high buildings, and the heavy verandahs to the houses, all tend to produce a condition of stagnation in the atmosphere of the City during the time when free ventilation is most desirable.

The configuration of the ground upon which the City of Victoria is built is undoubtedly a great factor in the sanitary condition of the Colony. The steepness of the hills has rendered it necessary to cut deeply into the hillsides when

preparing sites for houses, with the result that in the City dark and unhealthy basements abound. In some cases two floors are completely below the level of the ground on one side.

The nature of the rock or soil on which the City is built is also unfavourable. This geological formation of disintegrated granite or laterite has long been considered unhealthy. In former years, before the discovery of the relation of the mosquito to malarial fever, the laterite of Hongkong was considered to be essentially a malaria-producing soil. But apart from this it is easy to see how this soil may play its parts as a factor in the sanitary condition of the Colony. This gravelly soil must contain a great quantity of water. This can be seen to be a fact inasmuch as there are springs or sources of water in the City which even during the longest droughts do not dry up. As a consequence the soil below the ground floor of houses and frequently the basements of houses themselves are more or less damp.

These matters have of course long been recognised and legislated for, but in actual practice I think that there is much to be desired. There appears to be great difficulty in obtaining, for example, lime concrete of a good enough quality to render a ground floor dry and impervious, and I am of the opinion that, wherever it is desired to lay down a ground surface which is to be impervious, good cement concrete should be insisted on in lieu of the lime concrete at present accepted as sufficient by the law.

[Here follow some remarks, with tables, concerning the connection between the state of the weather and the seasonal recurrence of plague. Unfortunately it is impossible to reproduce them in brief.]

RAINFALL AND WATER SUPPLY.

The annual scarcity of water is a matter of the greatest hygienic importance, inasmuch as the people are frequently driven to obtain water from most undesirable sources. Were the system of water service designed *ab initio* for an intermittent supply careful supervision could eliminate many dangers, but unfortunately we have in Hongkong that most dangerous combination—a system designed for constant service with an intermittent supply during several months of each year. I have before, in a report on cholera at the Tung Wah Hospital 1902, pointed out the dangers of the ball valves in the street hydrants, and how they may be the means of entrance of specific infective material, and should unfortunately a water-borne disease, e.g. cholera, break out in the City during our time of intermittent supply there would be many chances of the disease assuming epidemic proportions.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE CITY.

Although comparatively few buildings have as yet been erected under the provisions of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, yet, such buildings as have been put up show a marked improvement in the matter of open spaces about them when compared with old buildings. When a new building is erected on the site of an old building in a row of houses the shape of the old site does not afford sufficient opportunity to build a house of quite a new type. What is required in Hongkong is a new type of Chinese house, and this will surely not be obtained unless houses can be re-built in blocks so that the frontage of houses and consequently the available window area may be much wider for the depth of the houses than at present.

In Hongkong little or no attention has been paid to the necessity of adapting houses to the requirements of the community, and therefore the working classes have had to adapt themselves to existing houses. This has resulted in the present insanitary condition of the houses of the working classes of Chinese.

In Great Britain much has been done latterly to provide houses for the working classes; affording the tenants the necessary privacy and independence and at the same time adequate lighting, ventilation, and other sanitary requirements. It should not be difficult to model some scheme to effect this in Hongkong taking into consideration the local conditions and adapting the scheme to the place. This I fear cannot be effected merely by the re-building of houses one by one on their old sites, but only by concerted action.

During the year special attention has been paid to the enforcement of the domestic clean-

ness bye-laws. The standard of thoroughness for the six-monthly limewashing of tenement houses has been considerably raised, though not without much difficulty and opposition at first.

GENERAL CLEANSING OF THE CITY.

On November 10th there was begun a general cleansing of the buildings throughout the City of Victoria and Kowloon. The scheme was as follows:—The Sanitary Inspectors of the Plague Staff were to have served on each separately let floor a notice requiring the tenants to cleanse the floor on the third day from the date of service. Failure to comply with the notice would result in the floor being cleansed by the coolies employed by the Board. On the morning of the day mentioned for compliance with the notice the Sanitary Inspector assisted by a Foreman would visit the houses to be cleansed on that day, and would supervise the work. Soft soap ready dissolved in hot water would be issued to the people free of cost. Any floors found clean would be exempted from further washing. Empty floors found dirty would be cleansed by coolies under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. The scheme proved very successful. With surprising willingness the people set to and cleansed their houses, with the result that up to the end of the year 18,983 floors were cleansed and up to the date of the last weekly return (January 23rd, 1904), 23,784 floors. That such a general cleansing is really required is shown by the great quantity of domestic rubbish daily carted away from the houses being cleansed. It has been estimated that about 30 tons of rubbish has been removed daily in this way since the cleansing began.

OPEN SPACES.

A small resumption of built over land has been made in No. 6 Health District by which Lower Lascar Row has been continued to U Hing Lane. The resumption included four houses and small portions of two others, but a considerable improvement has thereby been effected providing a good open space between the backs of houses in Queen's Road Central and Circular Pathway. The large plot of land between Taipingshan Street and Po Hing Fong between Square Street on the East and the new Tung Wah Hospital building on the West has been saved from the builder for the purpose of a public park. As a playground for the children of the very densely populated district below, it should prove a great benefit.

[Then follow population statistics which have already appeared, in another form, in the Registrar-General's report for 1903; and statistics of births, deaths, and the various diseases during the year. The report, apart from appendices, closes with remarks on the staff during 1903.]

THE SUPREME COURT IN 1903.

The report of Mr. Arathoon Seth, Registrar of the Supreme Court, for 1903 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

The number of actions instituted in Original Jurisdiction during the year was 178, and there were 91 in dependency. Of these, 114 were disposed of, of which 25 were settled or withdrawn before trial, leaving a balance of 155. The total amount involved was \$777,396.12. The debts and damages recovered amounted to \$317,431.98. There was one injunction granted. The total fees collected and paid into the Treasury amounted to \$8,210.05.

The number of actions instituted in Summary Jurisdiction was 1,643 and 38 were brought forward from 1902. Of these 1,521 were disposed of, 640 being settled or withdrawn before trial, leaving a balance of 230. The total amount involved was \$338,972.44; and the total fees collected and paid into the Treasury amounted to \$6,774.45.

The number of distress warrants for rent issued was 368, representing aggregate unpaid rents amounting to \$24,902.10, of which the aggregate sum of \$20,880.48 was recovered, 156 warrants having been withdrawn on settlement between the parties. The fees collected for issuing distress warrants and paid into the Treasury amounted to \$2,208.

There were 78 cases and 178 persons committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions. The number of persons actually indicted was 142, of whom 104 were convicted; 2 failed to

surrender to their recognisances, which were estreated; and 36 were acquitted. Against 35 persons no indictments were filed, and they were discharged on proclamation. One prisoner died in gaol before trial.

There were 10 Appeals instituted during the year, of which 9 were disposed of, leaving one pending. One case was carried to the Privy Council and the decision of the Court below upheld.

There were 10 actions instituted in Admiralty Jurisdiction, with 2 in dependency, all of which were disposed of, 5 having been settled or withdrawn before trial. The number of vessels arrested was 6. The total fees received and paid into the Treasury amounted to \$507.80.

There were 35 Petitions filed in Bankruptcy Jurisdiction, being creditors' petitions 15, and 20 petitions by the debtors themselves. The number of receiving orders made was 20, being 9 on creditors' petitions, and 11 on debtors' petitions. The number of Public Examinations held was 9. There were 11 adjudications, and 1 composition for \$12,875.21 approved by the Court. The aggregate amount of declared assets was \$314,010.18 and declared liabilities \$671,636.65. Of the declared assets only \$28,069.41 were recovered. With but few exceptions, the amounts realised have barely covered the costs of the Bankruptcy; hence the Court has of late more strictly enforced the law requiring substantial assets before making a receiving order. The fees paid into the Treasury amounted to \$758.05, including the Official Receiver's commission as trustee where no trustee has been appointed by the creditors.

In Probate and Administration there were 198 grants made by the Court, being:—Probates, 81. Letters of Administration, 117. The aggregate value of the Estates was \$1,936,975. Probate duties amounted to \$50,071.92. Court fees to \$5,174.70, and Official Administrator's commission paid into the Treasury to \$2,861.77. There were 47 estates vested in, or administered by, the Official Administrator during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$19,371.06. 20 estates were wound up during the year as against 17 in 1902, representing an aggregate value of \$32,567.13.

The total number of trust estates in the hands of the Official Trustee at the end of 1903, was 21, and the aggregate amount of Trust funds \$99,200.88, and certain house property, viz., No. 6, Rednaxela Terrace. The total fees received during the year and paid into the Treasury amounted to \$296.

The total number of companies registered from the commencement of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, was 386, with an aggregate capital of \$176,655,081, of which there were only 182 remaining at the end of 1903, whose aggregate capital amounted to \$114,216,425. 110 were wound up voluntarily, 4 were wound up under the supervision of the Court, and 90 are defunct. In addition to the latter, there are other companies that are practically defunct, as no returns have been furnished by such companies for years: but in order to legally strike them off the Register, certain preliminary steps have to be taken, which are now being done. There were 43 companies registered in 1903, the revenue from which was: Registration fees, \$6,808.00; Filing and other fees, \$1,889.00; Total, \$8,697.00.

The total sums collected during the year by way of fees and commissions paid into the Treasury amounted to \$41,758.83, as against \$30,275.42 in the previous year.

The visit of a large portion of the British China Squadron to Woosung has quite excited Shanghai. The local *Times* says:—Shanghai has suddenly awakened to the fact that her population has been increased by several thousand British man-of-war's men, hundreds of whom are ashore nightly on liberty and have no place to lay their heads. To remedy this undesirable state of affairs the Riding School at the corner of Range and Honan Roads, which is municipal property, has been converted into a giant hostelry where many tars may turn in and sleep soundly amid decent surroundings. The floor has been covered with clean straw, and blankets enough have been provided for the accommodation of a thousand guests.

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LD.

The following is the report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1903, for presentation to the shareholders at the nineteenth annual ordinary General Meeting of the Company (since its registration) to be held at the Offices of the Company in Alexandra Buildings on Tuesday, the 31st May, at 11 o'clock:-

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you a Statement of the Company's business with a Balance Sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1903.

The Net Profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including the salary of the General Managers, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to ... 102,426.49

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year ... 3,077.96

\$105,504.45

From this there has to be deducted—

General Manager's Commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits for the year as per Article 80 of the Company's Articles of Association \$5,121.32

Remuneration of the Consulting Committee as per Article 92 ... 2,500.00

7,613.32

Leaving an available balance of ... \$97,883.13

We paid an Interim Dividend of 5 per cent. in November last absorbing ... \$30,000.00

And we now propose to pay a further Dividend of 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year) which will absorb ... 30,000.00

To write off Furniture, Fittings, Utensils of Trade, Lighters, Soda Water Plant, Machinery and Building Additions ... 35,000.00

To carry forward to 1904 Account ... 2,883.13

\$97,883.13

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The existing Committee consists of Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. C. Ewins, E. Osborne, H. P. White, and R. C. Wilcox. The appointment of Messrs. Osborne and White requires your confirmation.

AUDITORS.

The Company's Accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Mr. Francis Maitland and Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1903.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.	\$	c.
Capital account.....	600,000.00			
Permanent reserve fund.....	250,000.00			
Reserve fund to meet contingencies or for the equalisation of dividends.....	25,000.00		875,000.00	
Local and general liabilities in the East and America.....	247,404.97			
Local and general liabilities in London.....	71,812.44		319,297.41	
Mortgage on section E of inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon.....	55,000.00			
Mortgage on marine lot No. 2 and the buildings thereon.....	140,000.00			
Mortgage on remaining portion of Kowloon inland lot No. 550 & the buildings thereon.....	25,000.00			
Mortgage on San Jacinto property, Manila.....	22,522.54			
Bills payable Hongkong and Manila.....	192,959.19			
Unclaimed dividends.....	8,413.00			
Security deposits from staff.....	11,650.00			
Profit and loss—				
Forward from 902 \$ 3,077.96				
Net balance 1903 102,426.49			105,504.45	
Less interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in Nov., 1903 ... \$30,000.00				

Less amount unclaimed at 31st December, 1903 ... 4,567.00

25,433.00

8,071.45

\$1,732,914.19

ASSETS.

Total stocks in trade 1,187,969.70
Good debts due from customers 216,950.10
Good debts due from sundry debtors 9,381.06
Cash in hand \$12,429.61
Cash at bankers 7,955.32

2,384.93

8,205.36

Fire insurance premia unexpired
Investments in public companies
North China Insurance Co., Ltd. }
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. }

1,200.00

Section E of inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon \$60,000.00

Marine lot No. 2 and the buildings thereon, at 31st December, 1902 \$156,801.38

Additions during 1903 17,116.44

173,917.82

Remaining portion of Kowloon inland lot No. 550 and the buildings thereon, at 31st December, 1902 19,870.36

Additions during 1903 4,936.71

24,807.09

San Jacinto, land and buildings, Manila 31,098.13

238,921.01

\$1,732,914.19

Dr.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

To balance 105,544.45

Cr.

CONTRA.

By balance forward from 1902 3,077.96

By net profits in Hongkong, China and Manila for 1903 102,426.49

\$105,544.45

"STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LD.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the sixth ordinary annual meeting to be held at the Company's office, No. 2, Connaught Road, at noon on the 1st June:—

The directors have the pleasure to submit to shareholders their report, with a statement of accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1904.

ACCOUNTS.

The net earnings of the boats, after paying all working expenses were \$55,694.42 as against \$42,973.50 last year, being an increase of \$12,710.92.

The amount at credit of profit and loss account after paying for repairs and placing \$7,343.75 to credit of insurance fund, is \$80,262.06 which, with the approval of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditor's fees ... \$ 1,100.00
Dividend of 18 per cent. ... 27,000.00
Bonus of 4 per cent. ... 6,000.00
Write off boats ... 10,875.00
" Goodwill ... 4,000.00
" Turnstiles ... 1,500.00
" Ice House Street Pier 3,500.00
Transfer to reserve fund ... 25,000.00
Carry forward to new account ... 1,287.06

\$80,262.06

BOATS.

The *Guiding Star* and *Morning Star* have been sold and are to be replaced by two new boats of an improved type, the first of which will be delivered shortly.

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association Mr. N. A. Siebs retires, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

Mr. W. H. Potts has audited the accounts now presented and offers himself for re-election.

BALANCE-SHEET,

30th April, 1904.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
To capital—		
10,000 shares at \$10 each, fully paid up	100,000.00	

10,000 shares at \$10 each, \$5 paid up 50,000.00

150,000.00

To reserve fund 60,000.00

To insurance fund 15,093.75

To unclaimed dividends..... 421.50

To accounts payable 10,320.18

To directors' and auditor's fees 1,100.00

To dividend 27,000.00

To bonus 6,000.00

To balance of profit and loss account 1,287.06

\$271,222.49

ASSETS.

By value of boats as per last account 150,000.00

Less value of *Guiding Star* and *Morning Star* sold 48,000.00

102,000.00

Since expended on 2 new boats 44,875.00

146,875.00

Less written off 10,875.00

136,000.00

By value of goodwill as per last account 4,000.00

Less written off 000.00

4,000.00

By value of turnstiles as per last account \$1,500.00

Less written off 1,500.00

000.00

By cost of alterations to Ice House Street Pier as per last account \$1,500.00

Less written off 3,500.00

000.00

By accounts receivable 739.29

By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank 7,781.70

By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank No. 2 account 421.50

By Hongkong Hotel debentures..... 30,000.00

By Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, loans..... 96,000.00

By cash in hand 300.00

\$271,222.49

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To repairs and alterations to boats \$ 0.00

To insurance fund 10,093.95

To balance appropriated as follows:—

Directors' and auditor's fees \$1,100.00

Dividend of 18 per cent. 27,000.00

Bonus of 4 per cent. 6,000.00

Written off boats 10,875.00

Written off goodwill 4,000.00

Written off turnstiles 1,500.00

Written off Ice House Street pier 3,500.00

Transferred to reserve fund... 25,000.00

Carried to new account 1,287.06

80,262.06

\$97,641.71

By balance from last account \$ 0.00

By net earnings of boats 55,694.42

By interest 5,007.23

By scrip fees 63.00

By difference between written down value and sale price of *Morning Star* and *Guiding Star*..... 36,550.00

\$97,641.71

RESERVE FUND.

To balance \$ 0.00

..... 60,000.00

By balance from last account 35,000.00

By transfer from profit and loss account... 25,000.00

\$60,000.00

INSURANCE FUND.

To balance \$ 0.00

..... 15,093.75

By balance from last account 7,750.00

By profit and loss account 7,343.75

\$15,093.75

On her last trip to the United States the *Korea* took as a passenger Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the noted Chinese reformer and hero-victim of the kidnapping incident at the Chinese Legation in London some years ago. Having proved that he is a citizen of the United States (having taken an oath of allegiance when the Hawaiian islands, where he was born, were annexed by the States) he was allowed to land in San Francisco.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the seventh ordinary general meeting:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you their report on the working of the company and a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1903.

From these it will be seen that the hope expressed in the last report that a more flourishing state of affairs would exist at the end of the year has not been realised, which may be accounted for by the fact that the country comprising the area of our operations has proved to be too broken up, too disturbed by volcanic action, and the auriferous land too patchy to be relied upon. To persist in carrying on unremunerative work in this land any longer was therefore not considered expedient.

In view of this fact the directors decided to obtain the opinion of an impartial mining expert to report fully upon the property, which would enable them to determine how much of the concession it would be necessary and advisable to retain and to develop. In pursuit of this decision they negotiated with Mr. C. G. Warnford Lock, General Manager of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited, who, having consented to undertake the work, made two protracted visits of inspection and has given an exhaustive report with an opinion upon the property, which is hereto appended. This report is considerably enhanced in its importance by the fact of it being compiled after frequent exchanges of views with and from reliable information gained, in regard to the geological formation of the country, from Mr. Scrivener, the Federal Geologist, who accompanied Mr. Lock throughout.

The directors recently receive notice from the Government of Pahang that no exemption for non-compliance with the Labour Clause of the lease would be made for the year 1903, and that if the company was not prepared to provide the necessary amount of working capital to carry out genuine development work within six months from the 1st March last, the lease would be liable to forfeiture.

The future of the company depends on the value of the promising reefs discovered in the northern portion of the concession and referred to in paragraphs 31 to 37 in Mr. Lock's report. The directors therefore are loth to advise the shareholders to abandon the property without an attempt being made to get back some of the capital sunk in the southern district.

Owing to the low state of the company's finances, the directors deemed it prudent in March last to "shut down" rather than to incur the responsibility of debt; consequently a telegram was despatched to the manager at the mines instructing him to "shut down as soon as possible." No further work was afterwards done; the foreign staff and Asiatic labourers were paid off; all accounts and outstandings settled; and the property is now entrusted to the care of Mr. Hangan and three policemen.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. Thos. Howard, having been compelled to leave for England owing to ill-health, applied for leave of absence and subsequently sent out a letter of resignation. Mr. W. C. Jack was invited to join the Board, and sat until his departure for home last month.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—
BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1903.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

Authorised Capital:—

60,000 ordinary shares at \$11 \$660,000.00

30,000 preference shares at \$1 30,000.00

690,000.00

Paid-up Capital:—

46,310 ordinary shares at \$11 509,410.000

5,677 ordinary shares at \$10.50 59,608.50

6,975 ordinary shares at \$10 69,750.00

688 ordinary shares at \$9 (forfeited) 6,192.00

350 ordinary shares not allotted ...

60,000 644,960.50

28,964 preference shares at \$1 28,964.00

1,036 ,, ,, not allotted ...

30,000

\$673,924.50

Marine Insurance 190.43
Accounts Payable 9,065.47

\$683,186.45

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

Cost of estate as per last account \$155,379.37

Development of Concession \$ 8,118.26

Main and Kladi Dams 32,356.65

Buildings 20,125.94

Roads and Bridges 12,334.86

72,935.71

Machinery, Plant & Equipment 73,273.43

Cyanide Plant 12,320.27

Portable Tram-line and Trucks 27,947.05

113,540.75

Furniture at Mines 2,117.30

Furniture at Head Office 457.43

2,574.73

Bullock Carts and Live Stock 711.27

Stores on Hand 13,441.22

Timber on Hand 3,147.66

17,300.15

Accounts Receivable 139.29

Cash at Mines 308.44

Do. Bank, Kuala Lumpur 388.19

Do. Singapore 2,263.31

Do. " & in hand at H'kg. 13,402.79

16,561.92

Gold Bullion in Transit (estimated value) 4,773.32

Less advances received 4,273.32

500.00

Working Account, balance at

debit 31st December, 1902 261,000.93

Working Loss for year ending

31st December, 1903 43,436.89

304,437.82

\$683,180.45

WORKING ACCOUNT

Year ending 31st December, 1903.

Dr. To Operations at Mines \$ 40,067.40

„ Fees to Sultan of Pahang 1,210.00

„ Prospecting 10,840.61

„ General Management and Expenses at

Mines 12,955.45

„ Pangong Office Expenses 3,841.53

„ Royalty on Gold 1,834.09

„ Salaries, Wages & Head Office Charges 5,193.17

„ Insurance 468.55

„ Exchange 767.51

„ Telegrams 116.10

„ Agency Fees 2,400.05

„ Directors' and Auditor's Fees 5,100.00

„ Firewood 141.75

„ Personal Accounts at Mines, written

off as bad 253.52

\$85,094.72

By Return of Gold Winnings 41,275.95

„ Interest 347.88

„ Transfer Fees 34.00

\$41,657.83

„ Balance Loss as per Balance Sheet 43,436.89

\$85,094.72

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 20th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

CONSPIRACY.

Evidence was resumed in the case in which Ng Tseung, an old Chinaman, and Hon Him, his wife, were charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of law and justice by pretending to the Squatters' Board that the first prisoner was the lessee of a plot of Government ground at Mati (the lessee being in fact dead), by which means the lease was allowed by the Squatters' Board; the man was also charged with committing several fraudulent acts before the Board, thereby obtaining the lease.

They pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. F. Paget Hett, solicitor, of Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton's office). The prosecution was conducted by Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. D. Bowley, Crown Solicitor). The following jury heard the case:—Messrs. H. C. Cunningham, F. W. White, S. E. Moses, J. T. d'Almeida e Castro, R. Walpole, A. Schmidtborn, and L. Kerr.

The evidence for the Crown had been completed on Thursday.

For the prisoners, the defence set up was that they acted in good faith, and that the occupiers of the land in question had for many years past invariably adopted the name of Chan Cheung (the name of the late lessee) in the same way as they had done.

The jury after a short absence found both prisoners guilty on the first count by six to one.

His Lordship in passing sentence said they had had a very careful trial. He quite agreed with the verdict of the jury that these two people had been cleverly plotting to deceive the Squatters' Board and get a Crown lease to which they had not the shadow of a title. Had they been the son and daughter of the deceased lessee his Lordship could have understood them thinking they had some sort of right to use his name. But they had no right at all. They were perfect strangers on this land and had never had in any way a lease from the deceased man. They got it either from his young son or from the man who alleged he was the purchaser. If they had disclosed the true facts to the Squatters' Board the Board would never have given them a Crown lease. They had done a very wrong and wicked thing, and his Lordship had no doubt that the Government had been cheated out of dozens of such claims which had not been found out and could not be found out. It was a very important thing to the public that people should know they could not do these things with impunity and then be found not guilty. They would each go to prison with hard labour for twelve months. He thought the female prisoner was the worse of the two.

This closed the Sessions.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE).

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

W. Lansdowne, late stage manager with Leavitts' Entertainers, sued M. B. Leavitt, proprietor of the company, for \$1,000 in respect of wrongful dismissal in Hongkong on 15th April. Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. D. V. Steavenson, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, & Deacon, solicitors, for the defendant.

The evidence of the plaintiff Lansdowne was taken *de bene esse*, as he is in hospital suffering from typhoid fever. It appeared that during the performance in the Theatre Royal on the day in question some trouble arose between the plaintiff and Madame Zancig, one of the company. She wanted the stage cleared, and he told the property boy to do it. To this Madame Zancig objected, as the property boy was supposed to go down among the audience and respond to her husband's call for volunteers to be put under his hypnotic influence. She told the boy to go down to the auditorium. A dispute followed. Madame Zancig complained to her husband that Lansdowne had insulted her. Professor Zancig challenged Lansdowne about the affair. In the course of the altercation that followed Lansdowne shook his fist at Zancig, whereupon, plaintiff alleged, Zancig struck him on the eye. On the afternoon of the next day, Lansdowne was standing in the bar at the City Hall when Leavitt happened to pass. Plaintiff asked him if he had decided whether he (Lansdowne) or Zancig was in the wrong. Leavitt said he had made enquiries and had come to the conclusion that Lansdowne was in the wrong and that he had not spoken to Zancig about it. Lansdowne then said, "You are nothing better than a louse." Leavitt replied, "You're finished right here," and gave him his discharge.

His Lordship held that as there was a contract between the parties there was no justification for the dismissal; the expression complained of was used in the bar and not in the theatre proper. He accordingly gave judgment for the plaintiff for \$400 with costs.

Wednesday, 25th May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A STEAMSHIP COMPANY DISPUTE.

Leung Wing Hing, Chiu Kit U, and Wong Chung Kee, shareholders in the China S.S. Co. of Hongkong and Macao, Ltd., applied for an injunction against Chan Ip Tong, Lee Kwan Ting, Wong Shiu Ping, Tang Kwan Shan,

Tsoi Wing Nam, Kan Sing Kiu, Sun Shin Ping, and Chan Kam Kee, directors of the Company, in receiving any payments out of the balance of the proceeds of the sale of the Company's s.s. *Chukong*. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs; and Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. R. Harding, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors), appeared for the defendants.

Plaintiffs in their statement of claim stated that on 13th January, 1903, defendants and the plaintiff Leung Wing Hing entered into an agreement whereby the defendant Chan Ip Tong and one Luk King Nam were to sell the s.s. *Chukong*, belonging to the Company, for \$77,220; and it was agreed that each director should transfer and hand over to the defendant Chan Ip Tong all shares authorised for or taken or agreed to be taken in the Company through or by such director, and that such director should thereupon be paid a proportionate amount for the shares after deducting from the price received by the Company for the steamship *Chukong* the debts of the Company. The defendant Chan Ip Tong and Luk King Nam received the sum stated, and after deducting the debts of the Company had a large balance in their hands. The defendant Chan Ip Tong had appropriated part of the balance to his own use and had distributed large sums out of the balance to the other defendants or some of them and to Luk King Nam. The plaintiffs claimed an injunction to restrain the defendants or any of them from receiving any payments out of the funds of the Company under the agreement, and from paying any funds of the Company to any persons other than bona-fide creditors of the Company, and an account of all moneys received or held by defendants on behalf of the Company and of all payments made out of the funds of the Company by the defendants or any of them since 13th January, 1903.

Defendants in their defence stated that the defendant Lee Kwan Ting was a merchant residing and carrying on business in Macao, and Tsoi Wing Nam had for many years been in the diplomatic service of the Chinese Government and is Consul at Kobe. Authority had not been obtained by the plaintiffs for the issue of a writ for service out of the jurisdiction of the Court, and defendants submitted that this Court had no jurisdiction against them. All the directors, including Leung Wing Hing, acting in the name of Leung Ngan Pau, were parties to the agreement mentioned in the claim, and the majority of the shareholders had approved thereof. Its terms has been completely and duly performed, except that certain shareholders, including the plaintiffs, and altogether representing about three per cent. of the capital of the Company, had refused their proportions of the balance of the \$72,220 which was left after payment of the debts of the Company. Every shareholder who was not a director acquired his shares through one of the directors. Defendants stated that they had rendered to Leung Wing Hing on behalf of himself and the other plaintiffs a full account of the proceeds of sale, the debts and the balance. Defendants were and had always been ready and willing to furnish the plaintiffs with any further particulars which they might desire of the said account, and to distribute to the plaintiffs their said proportions. Defendants had repeatedly offered the proportions to the plaintiffs, but plaintiffs had refused them. The sum reserved by the defendants for the payment of the plaintiffs' proportions was the only money remaining in their hands as directors of the Company, and they were obliged to draw upon this sum to meet the costs of this case.

After a long conference between the parties.

Mr. Slade intimated to his Lordship that the case had been settled satisfactorily; each party to pay their own costs.

The Court adjourned.

The U.S. battleship *Kentucky*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Robley Evans, on which he has just returned from Oriental waters, has, it is said, broken the world's record on her voyages from Hongkong to New York.

Thursday, 26th May.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ABSCONDING DEBTOR.

Mr. F. Paget Hett, solicitor, of Mr G. K. Hall Brutton's office, appeared on behalf of Mr. Bruce Shepherd, the Official Receiver, in support of an application on the estate of René Kahn.

His Lordship—Is there any estate to be trustee of?

The Official Receiver—Between \$500 and \$600.

His Lordship—Has any account been made out by him?

Mr. Hett—No; this was money deducted from his salary by Mr. Girault.

The Official Receiver—And then he ran away and stopped payment. An order is necessary to enable me to divide the funds.

His Lordship granted an order of adjudication and appointed Mr. Bruce Shepherd Receiver on the estate.

A VICTIM OF PIRATES.

Chan Shi-fai applied for a receiving order and to be declared bankrupt.

Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, who appeared for the debtor, said that the liabilities amounted to \$17,620, and the assets were stated by the debtor to be \$15,709, most of which were good debts. Of this sum there were \$7,359 of book debts, of which only \$400 was recoverable. The remainder consisted of the value of certain cattle stolen by pirates from the debtor in China, which the Chinese Government was taking steps to pay.

His Lordship—Do you think the steps will ever arrive at their destination? Is there the slightest chance?

Mr. Thomson—The Viceroy has admitted to the Consul that the District Magistrate has seized the property belonging to the robber and he is going to sell it for the benefit of this man. At present they are only waiting for the proceeds of this sale.

His Lordship—There are many cases like this, but my experience is that they amount to nothing. Why is he made bankrupt?

Mr. Thomson—He has been a trader here for 40 years.

His Lordship—There is nothing on affidavit to show he is not a man from China. He says that cattle belonging to him were seized in Kwangtung Province by pirates. I suppose he wants Mr. Bruce Shepherd to wind up his estate just to oblige him.

The debtor, called and examined, deposed that he had been over 40 years in Hongkong. He was born in Hoifung district, and was 61 years of age. He had dealt in ducks and fowls' eggs all along. A few years ago he commenced dealing in miscellaneous things. He first got into difficulties six or seven years ago. Each year he borrowed to pay his debts, but last year he could not borrow any more money as he lost his cattle-boat and people were unwilling to lend him any more. He was not there when the pirates took the boat, but his *foki* was there and so also were his customers and his captain. The pirates kept the cattle and sent back the empty boat. Since then the pirates had been captured in the Kweising district. He had put in a claim for \$8,350 for the loss of the cattle. If he got that sum he would not have lost anything. He had no available money now.

His Lordship said he supposed that the debtor had taken out these bankruptcy proceedings simply to avoid being put into gaol for debt. However, he would grant a receiving order subject to the debtor depositing \$250 with the Official Receiver.

A COMPOSITION.

In the matter of the Tung Chan firm *ex parte* the Sui Kat Bank, Mr. J. Scott Harston, of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, solicitors, appeared on behalf of the creditors in support of a petition for a receiving order. Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. John Hastings's office, represented the debtors.

Mr. Scott Harston said he desired an adjournment of the hearing on the ground that an arrangement had been come to between all the creditors and the debtors whereby a composition would be effected. As a matter of

fact he was applying formally for leave to withdraw the petition. All the European banks, who were the principal creditors, would, he believed, give their consent in writing. He would also have to apply for a discharge of the interim receiving order which his Lordship had already made.

His Lordship—Do you consent, Mr. Goldring?

Mr. Goldring—Yes, your Lordship.

His Lordship granted an adjournment as desired.

REVIEWS.

The Buck Blocks of China. By R. LOGAN JACK. London: Edward Arnold.

THIS is a narrative of experiences among the Chinese and other peoples between Shanghai and the Irrawadi. Dr. Jack was the head of a party who travelled in the South-west of China in order to examine the mining wealth of the country. The Boxer rising put an end to these investigations, and the explorers had to retreat not without honour through Burma. Even if the letterpress were all dull, which is by no means the case, the maps and photographic plates would be worth the price of the book.

Buddhism. An Illustrated Quarterly Review. No. 3. Rangoon: International Buddhist Society.

THE third number of this new Buddhist quarterly magazine fairly keeps up the promise of the earlier numbers. Letterpress and illustrations alike are of much interest to all to whom this great religion makes an appeal, and indeed to the general reader as well, in a lesser degree. Professor Rhys Davids again has an article, this time on "Seeing things as they really are"—the expression is Matthew Arnold's but it is not so much with Arnold as with the Buddhist attempt to "see things as they are" that Professor Rhys Davids deals. The Editor, besides his editorial contributions proper, continues his story or sketch of Burmese life "Under the Shadow of Shwe Dagon." Dr. Ernest, of Rangoon, writes on "Alcohol and the Mind"—an article which might be called "a warning to moderate drinkers." Mr. Maung Tsain, under the title of "Lokamarajin and the Fifth Great Council," tells of that striking personality, King Mindon Min of Burma. "Education in Burma" is an anonymous article, well worth reading. Other short articles, a couple of reviews, and the quarterly notes complete the number. We see that the Pali Text Society, a body which is doing much for the furtherance of the study of the Pali language, comes in for deserved commendation. In a note on Ceylon, also, we see that our late Governor in Hongkong is mentioned, the writer stating that Buddhists in Ceylon feel satisfaction over the appointment of Sir Henry Blake, "to whom they seem already to look for the redress of their long-standing grievances"—grievances, we may remark, which Sir West Ridgeway recognised also, for he granted a certain number of concessions before he left Ceylon.

POLO.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH IN HONGKONG.

Members of the Hongkong Polo Club turned out on Saturday afternoon to watch the game Ireland v. Scotland, the final of the International Polo Cup. Shortly before the appointed hour a heavy shower of rain came down, and the state of the weather appeared so threatening that it was feared the game would have to be postponed. Things, however, cleared up shortly afterwards, and although the sun was unable to show himself through the blanket of overcast the afternoon was cool and pleasant.

The band of the 93rd Burmas struck up a lively air as the eight horsemen trotted into the field. The Irish team, distinguishable by their green jackets, was comprised of Mr. Knox, R.N., Capt. Carleton, H.E. Mr. F. H. May, and Mr. J. Hastings. Scotland, on the other hand, was represented by Major Hamilton, Mr. J. Johnstone, Mr. Cruickshank, and Mr. Lyon, R.N. Capt. Nugent was referee.

Almost immediately after the throw-in Johnstone scored a sub for Scotland, in spite of strenuous efforts by Hastings to prevent him.

Knox then got a bit of a run, but was ruled off-side. The other side, of course, had a free hit, Lyon taking it. Hamilton swept down the field hotly pursued by May and the others, finishing his run with a goal. Scotland, continuing to play an excellent game, again secured possession, Hamilton neatly passing to Cruickshank. Johnstone finally scored a goal, the second for the Northerners. From the throw-in again Cruickshank made a nice hit, but lost to May who, unfortunately, sent the ball outside. Hastings then had a bit of a canter. He lost his stick, however, by getting it caught. Johnstone quickly took advantage of the situation and scored a sub. Lyon shot a neat goal just before the half-time bell commenced to announce that seven minutes were up.

Half-time:—Scotland, 3 goal 2 subs; Ireland, 0.

On the re-start Carleton, now on his little Burma pony, got away neatly and scored No. 1 for Ireland. Play was now so exciting that when the ponies went into double run one almost felt like getting out and keeping time with them. After some hard work May added another goal for the Greens, making the contest all the more interesting. Again the Acting Governor made a bold effort, this time Johnstone, who was following closely, managing to send the ball behind. The Scots then eluded their opponents smartly, scoring a fourth goal; honours this time fell to Cruickshank. Hastings lost to Lyon, Lyon, in turn, losing to May. Lyon hotly pursued the latter, saving splendidly. Carleton then helped Ireland to get some of their own back, shooting an excellent goal with a back-hander. A little over one minute was left for play. Johnstone closed the scoring with a fifth for his side, Scotland winning an easy victory.

Result:—Scotland, 5 goals, 2 subs—Ireland, 3 goals.

BILLIARDS.

JOHN ROBERTS IN HONGKONG.

On Wednesday afternoon and night Mr. John Roberts took on our local expert, Mr. E. H. Hinds, at two games of 1,000 up at billiards and two sets of three games each at pyramids. In the afternoon billiards Mr. Roberts essayed to give 650 points in 1,000, but found Mr. Hinds in excellent form, so that though he made one break of 128, he only reached 505 when Mr. Hinds ran out with an unfinished 40 odd. After dinner Mr. Roberts only conceded 500 in 1,000 and, playing a much stronger game, beat his opponent by 130. The ex-champion's best breaks were 227 and 180. At pyramids honours were easy, each winning three games; Mr. Roberts conceded the local player 4 balls each time.

Mr. John Roberts gave an exhibition at the Club Lusitano on Saturday, playing two games.

The first game was played against Mr. C. M. P. Remedios, who was allowed 400 points in a game of 600 up. For the first eight or nine strokes play was fairly even. Roberts then made a break of 98. Remedios had at that time scored 30. Other good breaks by Roberts were 70, 69, 47, 46. Remedios, on the other hand, played well, scoring three breaks of 22, 21, and 19 respectively. Remedios won by 56 points.

The second game was played against Mr. J. A. Carvalho, a handicap of 400 being given. As before, Roberts seemed rather careless, not pressing his breaks as far as he might have. Carvalho scored well at the outset; he had 550 when Roberts was 500. Roberts's best breaks in this game were 70, 69, 46, and 47. Carvalho made breaks of 22, 16, and 14. Carvalho lost the game by ten points.

At the conclusion Mr. Roberts showed the attendance, close on a hundred in number, some smart tricks. He made cannons after sending his ball under a basket, circular cannons, and such like. The evening was a very pleasant one.

The United States Consul at Newchwang has been raised to Consul-General and acknowledged as such by the Chinese Government. Mr. Morgan, U.S. Consul at Dalny, has reached Nagasaki on his way to his post.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

It has been arranged to hold the Championship tournament of the Hongkong Chess Club next month, and entries can now be sent in to the Hon. Sec., Mr. R. H. Newborn, 8, Des Voeux Road. Entries will close on the 8th June and play will commence on the following Wednesday, all present members being eligible, as well as anyone joining the Club before the 8th June. The entrance fee, which should accompany the entry, will be \$2 (two dollars). The conditions are as follows:—(1) The tournament will be on the "knock-out" principle; (2) Ties will be for the best of three games in the preliminary rounds and for the best of five in the final; (3) A period for the completion of each round will be fixed by the Committee.

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR FUND.

- (1) Providing additional comfort in Hospital treating all sick and wounded from the War.
- (2) In aid of the families of Japanese killed in the War.

Mr. J. R. M. Smith, the Hon. Treasurer, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions—for either (or both) of the above objects, as indicated on the subscription lists.

Already acknowledged	\$26,404.25
Benjamin Kelly & Potts	150
E. Pabanay	500
A. M. Essabhoj	500
Tata & Co.	300
Abdoolally Ebrahim & Co.	200
H. M. H. Nemazee	200
R. S. Woonwalla & Co.	150
Talati & Co.	150
N. Mody & Co.	150
S. Arjun	150
M. H. E. Elias	150
P. F. Talati	150
Cawasjee Pallanjee Co.	150
Doshi Brothers	100
Dhunjuboy D. Nowrojee	51
Arratoon V. Apar & Co.	50
Ginseng Guild	62
Lo Tse Hing	20

\$29,587.25

It has been decided to close the local Russo-Japanese War Fund on Saturday next.

PHILIPPINE CURRENCY.

On the 30th March there were in the Insular Treasury in the Philippines 1,435,808.13 Spanish Filipino pesos, 1,230,000 of which were shipped to San Francisco for recoinage. During the month of April 3,051,395.66 Spanish Filipino pesos, including subsidiary coins, came into the Treasury, and were retired from circulation. Of the amount thus received 1,810,000 were shipped to San Francisco for recoinage. On the 30th day of April there remained in the Insular Treasury ready for counting, packing, and shipping 3,310,155.72 Spanish Filipino pesos. Since the 1st day of January, 1904, therefore, it appears that more than eight to twelve millions of Spanish-Filipino coins have come into the Treasury and been retired from circulation. This amount is undoubtedly much more than one-half of all that there was in the Islands at the beginning of the year, and the process of elimination has gone on with unexpected speed, greater progress having been made during the month of April than in any preceding month. During the month of April \$646,110 in value of the new silver certificates were issued, making the total of such certificates in circulation April 30, 1904, \$4,666,710. The large elimination of old local currency during the month has operated to create a scarcity of that kind of coin in the Islands, and therefore to raise its price in the local markets. While the Government ratio of 1 to 2.26 which existed on April 30 was materially lower than the commercial ratio in the city of Manila, it was likewise materially higher than the ratio existing in Hongkong or London. In other words, the Government ratio was better than the markets of the world would warrant, but not as high as the ratio created by special conditions in Manila.

A CANTON INCIDENT.

A Hongkong gentleman who has just returned from a visit to the Fatsan Railway tells of a curious incident he witnessed on one of the old "Star" Ferry launches that carry passengers from the Hongkong steamers to the railway station on the opposite side of the river. On the way back from the station to the city there was a party of some eight or nine railway guards, who, as anyone who has seen them will admit, look more like brigands than guardians of the peace and the rolling-stock, dressed in their quaintly-coloured uniforms, armed with massive old American rifles and revolvers, and their waist-belts stuck full of cartridges. These guards had in their charge three prisoners, heavily ironed. Apparently they were pirates or criminals of some such sort being taken to Canton to be lodged in gaol. On the journey down the river one of the prisoners, seizing an opportunity of escape during a moment of carelessness on the part of the escort, made a dash for the side of the boat with the evident intention of getting away or drowning himself by jumping over the bulwarks. He had almost accomplished his purpose, when one of the guards seized him and brought him back. On the landing-stage being reached the leader of the escort got hold of this prisoner by the queue, and after dragging him backwards and forwards several times drew his revolver and, pointing it at the prisoner's head, fired. Instead, however, of shooting the man through the skull the guard's aim was wide of the mark. The bullet missed the prisoner and struck one of the other guards on the upper part of the arm. From the wound blood poured copiously down his fingers, but the injured soldier appeared to treat the injury with little seriousness, for instead of binding it up he began to go round about among the bystanders exhibiting his hurt. Meanwhile the leader of the guard appeared to have been satisfied that at least somebody's blood had been shed, and he gave orders for the march to be resumed in the direction of the prison.

COOLIES FOR THE RAND.

Though it has already been announced from London that the final form of the contract under which coolies will be shipped to South Africa has been drawn up to the satisfaction of the home Government, there is no appearance here yet of a start being made with the embarkation of the labourers. Two transport steamers are now ready to receive the emigrants, and a third, the *Ikal*, has just arrived here for fitting-out. Other two, it is stated, will arrive shortly and proceed to northern ports to embark coolies.

It is interesting to note the views of Lt.-Colonel Kenneth Ross, the well-known Eastern mining expert, with regard to the Chinese labour question. He says he has seen how well Chinese labour has worked for many years in the Malay Peninsula. As managing director of a mining syndicate Colonel Ross has employed natives speaking ten different languages—Chinese, Siamese, Burmans, Hindustanis, and many other races. "Of these," he said, "as patient, plodding, peaceable, law-abiding citizens the Heathen Chinese certainly came first." In other parts of the world, such as the West Indies, thousands of British Indian subjects have been employed for scores of years under conditions less favourable to the labourers than those now proposed for the Chinese without any cry of "slavery" being raised. "It is to be deplored," continued the Colonel, "that many in Great Britain never rise above party considerations. Whether rightly or wrongly, we have taken the Transvaal from the Boers, and it remains for us to develop this great Imperial asset. In importing Chinese to South Africa we make them free men, not slaves. Let me give you an illustration of what I mean. Close to the boundary of British territory in the Malay States there was about sixty years ago a Chinese coolie who shovelled tin at a shilling a day of nine hours, feeding, lodging, and clothing himself out of that sum. His grandson is now the Rajah of —, owns about four thousand square miles of territory, including several rich mines which are his own property, and is part proprietor of thirteen

steamers. I have travelled in company with a freshly caught 'slave' and seen him later return, after working in the mines, a prosperous man. Under the compound system the native workmen are infinitely better housed, fed, and looked after than they would be in their own plague-stricken villages." Colonel Foss has no doubt that the Chinese will work underground, provided they are dealt with tactfully in the first instance and due account is taken of their secret societies.

HONGKONG.

Capt. R. Mitchell has resigned his commission in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

The *Collao*, Lieut. Miller, arrived from Samsui on the 26th inst.

The Dallas Company left by the southward-bound s.s. *Bayern* on the 26th inst.

The appointment is notified in the *Gazette* of Mr. T. L. Perkins to act on behalf of the Building Authority.

The scarcity of water is making itself very much felt at the present time. Already the Chinese are going to the extent of buying water from boats that bring it over from the other side to the Praya West.

The year's total of plague cases is now 176. Apart from plague the week before last the only cases of communicable disease were:—Cholera 4 (Chinese, 2 imported from Saigon), with 3 deaths; enteric fever 2 (1 European, 1 Indian); small-pox 3 (2 Europeans imported from Shanghai, 1 Chinese).

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. E. S. Bragg, U.S. Consul-General, has been recognised as in charge of the interests of the Republic of Panama in Hongkong, pending other arrangements; and that the King's *exequatur* empowering Mr. A. Haupt to act as Danish Consul has received His Majesty's signature.

On the 21st inst. Mr. Li Hong Mi, Supreme Court interpreter, was entertained to a banquet in the Yin King Lam restaurant, on the occasion of his departure for England on leave. There were about 40 people present. Mr. Li Hong Mi is taking to England his son to be educated. Good wishes from their many friends follow them both. Mr. Li Hong Mi and his son left by the *Bayern* on the 25th inst.

As the s.s. *Chun Shan* was getting under weigh, leaving Hongkong for Amoy and Swatow on the 26th, her revolving propeller cut a native boat to pieces, also taking off the arm of its occupant, a Chinaman. Capt. Williamson, of the s.s. *Telemachus*, happened to be passing at the time, and he promptly brought his sampan to the rescue. A Dock launch towed the skipper's craft when the injured man was got aboard to Kennedy Town, the nearest shore. The Chinaman was so stunned at the time that very little could be got out of him.

Mr. Frederic Jones, Queensland Government Commissioner of Trade, accompanied by Mr. F. D. Barretto, Vice-Consul for Mexico, paid an official call on His Excellency the Hon. F. H. May at Government House last week. Mr. Jones is visiting the Orient ports for the purpose of developing business relations with Queensland, and expresses himself well satisfied with future possibilities of trade with Hongkong. The products in which Queensland excels are frozen meat and butter, flour, canned meats, condensed milk, cheese, jams, fodder and forage, coal, leather, boots, and allow.

There left Hongkong by the s.s. *Korea* early on the 26th inst. Mr. T. H. Reid, a well-known Hongkong journalist, who was up to last week managing editor and part proprietor of our evening contemporary the *China Mail*. Mr. Reid has been on the *China Mail* staff for 12 years, joining as a junior in 1891. He was appointed sub-editor in 1894, and next year took a share in the business. When the new Journalists' Association was founded here Mr. Reid was unanimously elected President. Apart from the great esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in the local Press, Mr. Reid was popular also in general circles, and his departure is much regretted. He was on the directorate of several local companies. Among lighter pursuits, golf and chess were his favourites, but he had little time to devote to them of later years. The good wishes of Hongkong accompany him home to Scotland.

Inspector Peter McNab left for home on the 25th inst. by the German Mail, the s.s. *Bayern*. He has completed 19 years' service in the Hongkong Police Force, showing a clean sheet for the whole of that period. Shortly before his departure he was invited into the billiard-room at Central Police Station, where his comrades bade him farewell. Mr. F. H. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, speaking on behalf of the Force, presented the pensioner with a handsome piece of Chinese silverware on a blackwood stand. The trophy, a four-branched affair, bore an appropriate inscription. Mr. Hansen also addressed Inspector McNab, the proceedings terminating by drinking a bumper to his health.

Discussing the projected Canton-Macao Railway, the Hongkong correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Personally I am sceptical on all counts, though a concession may have been negotiated, but between the granting of the concession and the construction sufficient time almost to forget the work often intervenes, and American capital is not, I notice, very readily forthcoming for investment in the Far East. At the same time there are some points in this Canton-Macao line. The route would present no serious engineering obstacles, and could be made in much less time than the Kowloon-Canton Railway. It therefore behoves the promoters of the latter line to brace up and carry out the terms of their valuable concession without any further timorous delay. If they are unable or fear to make the plunge, it will be necessary for the colony and the Imperial Government to take steps to get the concession cancelled, for it is now in its present condition a standing menace to Hongkong.

The old tug *Fame*, belonging to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd., has been sold to Indo-China. She left Hongkong on Wednesday, the 25th inst. under the French flag. The little tug recently figured on the Dock Co.'s books at \$15,000, but it is hardly likely that she fetched that sum. Most Star Ferry passengers are familiar with her, though it may not be generally known that she has weathered the elements for some 47 years. In the palmy days of youth, long before she was converted from paddle wheels to twin screws, she was a Mediterranean fruit carrier. How much of her old self remains it is hard to say. She was wrecked on the coast of Cochin-China, near Cape Varella, about a year ago. She had been despatched to pull off the French steamer *Binh Thuan*, stranded at that locality. On arriving at her destination it was found that Mr. J. W. Jameson had already floated the steamer, so the *Fame's* trip was practically wasted. While endeavouring to pick up the *Binh Thuan's* anchors a line fouled the *Fame's* propellers, heavy surf piling her on to the beach. She was refloated after considerable difficulty.

On Saturday afternoon a very pleasant little function took place at the Central Police Station, when Mrs. Badeley, the wife of Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, presented the prizes won in various competitions in connection with the Hongkong Police Recreation Club. The shooting prizes were won by Inspector W. Robertson (1), Sergeant W. Pitt (2), Inspector W. Withers (3), and Sergeant John Grant (4). In the Central billiards competition Inspector A. C. Langley was first, P. O. Blown second, and P. C. Cooper third, while Sergt. Pitt won the prize for the highest break (43). In the Tsimshatsin billiards handicap, Inspector Withers took first honours, and the second place was secured by Sergt. Pitt. In the Tennis tournament at the Central P. C. Deveney won the first prize, with P. C. Clyde a good second; the doubles was won by Deveney and Pitt. In the Ladies' Nomination game the successful players were Deveney and Inspector Kerr, nominated respectively by Mrs. Robertson of Shaokwan and Mrs. Gerrard of Sheungshui. P. C. Deveney was the first prize-winner in the Tsimshatsin singles; Inspector Withers second. After the presentation of prizes by Mrs. Badeley, Mr. J. W. Hanson, the Chief Detective Inspector, presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and expressed the pleasure which the Police felt for her graciousness in attending the ceremony and so kindly handing over the prizes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At a fire at Otaru, Hokkaido, on the 8th inst. 4,000 houses were destroyed.

The death is announced of Mr. John Keswick, of Messrs. J. & J. Skinner, and Co., of Calcutta.

L'Echo de Chine says that Colonel Marchand, having refused the command of the French troops at Tientsin, has had his resignation accepted.

It is said that a lot of American excursionists are to be taken to places near the war, including Chefoo. A little further north and west, we suppose, stray mines will add excitement to the trip.

The electrical wiring of Manila and its buildings will be regulated by law. A new ordinance has been proposed by the municipal board which refers to electrical materials, appliances, apparatus, the prevention of discrimination in the sale and supply of electricity and the fixing and regulating of rates and charges therefor.

On the 21st inst. the Shanghai Cricket Club defeated the Navy by 60 runs on the first innings. The Naval team included Commander Watson, Messrs. Horsey, Irwin, Bisset, de Paris, and Capt. Harris.—On the 23rd the Navy's Rugby team beat Shanghai by 1 goal 4 tries to nil.

The U.S. Consulate at Shanghai has received the following telegram dated Chefoo, 16th May:—The Customs notify that yesterday the steamer *Yochow* discovered off Weihaiwei, in Lat. 37 deg. 36 min. N., Long. 122 deg. 12 min. E., approximate, an object, apparently a mine, of conical shape and brown colour, with network round the centre, two feet in diameter.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. V. A. Sales, usher of the Supreme Court. Mr. Sales had been in failing health for a considerable time past. He was on leave when he died, and was staying at Macao for his health. He was in the Government service for about 15 years, and was a very popular officer. On occasion he used to serve as French interpreter in the Court.

The Visayan village destined for the S. Louis Exposition sailed for the United States on the *Shawmut*. The villagers were in charge of Dr. Farris, and were accompanied by Dr. Carhoun. The village consisted of forty-seven natives, who will build a village at the fair, a representation of the Visayan tribes. They carried with them all the necessary bamboo and nipa for the construction of the village.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 21st inst. writes:—The fact that the *Supao* prisoners were to be brought up at the Mixed Court today caused some amount of excitement among the natives usually assembled round the Court precincts, and quite a number lingered outside to catch a glimpse of them as they left the Court shortly afterwards. The elder prisoner, Chang Ping-lung, exhibited a worn-out appearance and maintained a stolid air throughout the whole of the proceedings. Not so with the younger one, for he seemed to take his position in quite a different light, at times knitting his eyebrows contemptuously as he looked round the Court, and at others indulging in almost ribald laughter. After the sentence had been passed Chan Yung made a frantic effort to address the Magistrate, and had to be forcibly taken by the police to the outer door leading to the courtyard, where both were put in a carriage and driven away under a strong police escort. Since the trial the punishments then imposed upon the prisoners of three years and two years' imprisonment respectively (and which were not concurred in by the Magistrate, who held that the offences warranted life sentences) have been the subject of much correspondence between the Consular Body and the Taotai, and although the Chinese authorities continued to demur at the sentences as being too lenient, they agreed yesterday to submit to the decision given at the close of the trial rather than an unconditional release and banishment.

Dr. Betz, late administrator of the German Consulate at Swatow, has been appointed Consul at Chinanfu, Shantung.

According to the Japanese papers, the loss of twenty lives in the lantern procession at Tokyo on the 8th inst. was caused by the police, who thought that the bridge across the moat was dangerously crowded, closing the Babasaki Gate, the crowd behind not knowing what had occurred and continuing to press on. In the rush when the gate was opened again, a number of people were thrown down and trampled on. Some fell into the moat, and these were mostly rescued.

The Acheen war, which began in 1873, is reported to have cost Holland about 280 millions of guilders up to the end of last year. The war is in its last stage, but still drags on, the operations being now mainly against the Gayoos, a tribe of hillmen who had given aid and comfort to the Achinese to whose Sultan they owed allegiance. The Sultan has submitted, and has left the Gayoos to their fate, while the Achinese are said to have been so effectually brought under, that they can do nothing to help their allies.

As we have stated already, nothing can be discovered locally about the alleged starting of a vaudeville theatre in Hongkong on the lines of the Manila Orpheum and under the same management. But with regard to Shanghai arrangements seem actually to have been made. The *Shanghai Times* says:—Louis M. Levy, the Manila theatrical man, who has been in Shanghai for some time past, looking for a suitable site on which to erect a new theatre which shall be operated in conjunction with a circuit including Manila and Hongkong, has found what he has been seeking for. A lot has been secured on Szechuen Road between Hankow and Foochow Roads, and Messrs. Atkinson and Dallas have decided to erect a theatre thereon to be completed within nine months, both lot and building to be leased to Mr. Levy for ten years. The lot is 102 ft. by 160 ft., and the new building will be larger than the Orpheum Theatre in Manila.

The *Straits Times* publishes the following, dated Penang, 17th May:—A large and influential meeting of Chinese was held in the Town Hall yesterday evening, Mr. Hargreaves, of the Free School, presiding. Messrs. Foo Choo Choon, Kaw Cheng Sian, Lim Seng Hoi, Lim Kek Chuan, Loke Chow Thye, Goh Boon Keng, and other leading representatives of the Chinese community were present. Dr. Gnoh Lean Tuck, and Mr. Lee Teng Hwee, B.A. (Yale), Tonamsinsang, Kuala Lumpur, addressed the meeting regarding the urgent need of providing modern education for the Chinese. They compared the progress of Japan with the backwardness of China and urged reform, advocating the introduction of western learning. At the same time they urged the Straits Chinese to remember that they were still Chinese, and should study in the Mandarin School recently opened in Penang. The general tone of the meeting was strongly in favour of impressing upon the Chinese the urgent necessity of awakening to a realisation of their responsibilities if they hoped to retain the independence of their nation.

COMMERCIAL.

SUGAR.

Hongkong, 27th May.—The prices are advancing, market being brisk.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.55 to \$8.60 pcls.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.65 to 7.70 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.45 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.50 to 7.55 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.80 to 12.85 "
Shekloong "	10.90 to 10.95 "

RICE.

Hongkong, 27th May.—Stocks accumulated; the prices are going downward.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.65 to \$2.70
" Round, good quality	3.85 to 3.90
" Long	3.95 to 4.00
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.75 to 2.80
" Garden, " No. 1	3.20 to 3.25
" White,	4.25 to 4.30
" Fine Cargo	4.40 to 4.45

OPIUM.

28th May.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.		
Malwa New	\$1040	to \$1080 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1100	to \$1140 do.
Malwa Older	\$1200	to \$1240 do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1260	to 1280 do.
Persian fine quality	\$880	to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$900	to — do.
Patna New	\$1260	to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$1260	to — do.
Benares New	\$1230	to — do.
Benares Old	\$1230	to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 100 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

		per piece	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30	to	2.40
7 lbs.	2.50	to	2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50	to	4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30	to	5.50

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

		per piece	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90	to	3.25
58 to 60 "	3.50	to	4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25	to	5.75
Fine	6.00	to	8.50
Book-folds	5.00	to	8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85	to	1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30	to	2.80
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.50	to	3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50	to	3.00
7lbs. (32 "), "	3.10	to	3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30	to	4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ "	4.75	to	7.30
to 14 lbs.)			

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	2.00 to 4.50
Brocades—Dyed	0.14 to 0.15

DAMASKS—

		per yard	
Chintzes—Assorted	0.11 to 0.35		
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.55		
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28		

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.75 to 1.00
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WOOLLENS—

		per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.75 to 2.50		
German	0.65 to 1.00		
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 5.50		

		per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.90 to 9.50		
Assorted	7.05 to 9.65		
Camlets—Assorted	13.50 to 36.00		
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	13.00 to 21.00		
Assorted			
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —		

		per pair	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.80 to 9.00		
Fine quality	1.25 to 1.85		

METALS—

		per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	4.30	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.30	to	—
Swedish Bar	4.35	to	—
Small Round Rod	4.65	to	—
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.20	to	—
Wire, 16/25 oz.	6.50	to	—
Wire Rope, Old	3.00	to	—
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.30	to	—
Australian	8.30	to	—
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	40.00	to	—
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.00	to	—
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.00	to	—
Composition Nails	61.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50	to	—
Tin	81.00	to	—

		per box.	
Tin-Plates	6.70	to	—

		per cwt. cases	
Steel ½ to ½	6.50	to	—
Quicksilver	158.00	to	—

		per box	
Window Glass	5.00	to	—

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 18th May.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

		Per picul.	
Cowhides, best selected	Tls.	33.00	
Do. seconds	"	28.50	
Buffalo hides, best selected	"	20.00	
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour) ..	"	58.00	
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	"	9.00	
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	"	10.90	
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	"	10.00	
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	"	10.50	
Jute	"	4.90	
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ..	"	10.50	
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchew and/or Macheng)	"	10.40	
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ..	"		
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	"	11.00	
Animal Tallow	"	9.80	
Gallnuts (usual shape)	"	18.75	
Do. (Plum) do.	"		
Tobacco, Tinchow	"		
Black Bristles	"	120.00	
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ..	"	19.75	
" " Wild Duck	"	21.75	
Turmeric	"	3.20	
Sesamum Seed	"	4.50	
Sesamum Seed Oil	"	7.90	
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	"	7.90	
Wood Oil,	"	8.20	
Tea Oil	"	9.00	

Per steamer *Antenor*, sailed on 12th May. For Odessa:—100 bales chinaroot, 6 bales canes. For Marseilles or Havre:—105 rolls matting. For Havre or Hamburg or London:—30 bales canes, 70 cases bristles. For Antwerp:—52 bales canes, 275 bales feathers. For Manchester:—300 bales waste silk. For London or Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London or Goole:—210 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—5 cases machinery. For London or Glasgow:—300 casks ginger. For London:—197 rolls matting, 188 bales feathers, 442 bales canes, 100 bales chinaroot, 290 casks soy, 400 casks ginger, 115 cases ginger, 360 cases palm leaf fans, 152 cases chinaware, 5 cases bristles, 16 cases cigars, 28 cases human hair, 19 cases sundries, 27 cases effects. For various ports:—21 packages sundries.

Per steamer *Polynesian*, sailed on 17th May. For Marseilles:—124 bales raw silk, 77 bales waste silk, 23 cases silk piece goods, 64 packages human hair, 5 packages feathers, 7 cases ylang ylang oil, 16 cases cigars, 104 packages provisions, etc. For Lyons:—220 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—21 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manila*, sailed on 26th May. For London:—491 half-chests tea, 481 boxes tea, 330 rolls mats, 288 bales canes, 2 cases cigars, 13 bales feathers, 2 cases feathers, 30 cases chinaware, 9 cases woodware, 8 packages ratten and grass chairs, 4 packages sundries. For Glasgow:—13 cases chinaware, 6 cases woodware. For London and or Hamburg:—50 bales feathers. For London and or Goole:—317 bales waste silk. For London or Manchester:—200 bales waste silk.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 30th May.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	226½
Credits 4 months' sight	230
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	184½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134½
Bank, on demand	135
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134½
Bank, on demand	135
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	88½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	Nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	Nom.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	108½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	63
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	
GOLD LEAF, 180 fine, per tael	\$59.80
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25½

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th May, 1904.—A very fair general investment business has been transacted during the week. Indo-Chinas have continued to be the chief speculative medium and a large business has been put through at persistently advancing rates. The general market closes steady to firm.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been placed in small lots at \$665 and \$667½, market closing with sellers at the higher rate. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue on offer in small lots at \$550, and a slightly lower rate would probably not be refused. China Traders are still in demand at \$60, and Cantons have advanced to \$220 after sales at \$215. At the former rate, however, there are sellers and no buyers. North Chinas and Yangtszes remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue steady at \$310 without sales. Chinas have been placed again at \$35.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao in the early part of the week improved to \$31½, after sales at \$30, \$30½, and \$31 owing to a report that one of the opposition lines was about to withdraw; at the close, however, the stock is weaker at \$31 with sellers. Indo-Chinas have been placed in large lots at rates between \$111 and \$119 for cash and at equivalent rates, up to December; market closes steady with buyers at \$119, but with sellers at \$120. The latest Shanghai quotation is Tls. 85½ sales. China and Manilas continuing in demand, the rate has further improved to \$22½ with buyers and no sellers. Douglases have been enquired for in a small way at \$35, but holders demand \$35½ and no sales have been effected. Star Ferry's after the publication of a good report, which proposes to pay a dividend of \$1.80 and a bonus of \$0.40, have further advanced to \$33 for old and \$22 for new shares. Holders, however, are apparently not inclined to part and no shares are obtainable at these rates. Shell Transports have ruled quiet between 25/- and 26/- with only a small business, market closing with sellers at 26/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars after having been inactive for some time have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$144 and \$145 cash, and at sales equivalent to the latter, forward to December, 1904; at time of closing the market has taken a sudden jump to \$147 with buyers, and shares seem difficult to obtain except at an advance. Luzons remain entirely out of the market.

MINING.—No changes or business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—A small but steady demand for Hongkong and Whampoa Docks has gradually improved the market to \$215 after sales at \$213, \$214, and \$214½ for cash. A small forward business at equivalent rates for July, August, and September has been put through, but sellers forward rule the market at the close.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet at \$159 with sellers, and little or no business to report. Hongkong Hotels with continued sellers at \$138 have receded to \$137 with sellers. Humphrey's Estates have been placed at \$12½ and close with a few sellers at that rate, but with no shares to satisfy a large demand at \$12½. Kowloon Lands and West Points are enquired for at quotations with no business to report.

COTTON MILLS.—No changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands, after further sales at \$27½, have advanced to \$25½ with sales and buyers, market closing strong. Watsons have receded to \$14½ after the publication of the report recommending a final dividend of \$0.50. Electric, old and new, have been placed at quotations. Leas are enquired for at quotations, also Dairy Farms, Watkins, and Powells. China Borneos are on offer at \$10.

MEMOS.—Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on 1st June. "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on 1st June. Transfer books closed until 1st June. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on 31st inst. Transfer books closed until 1st June.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$667½ L'don, £65
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
Foun. Shares	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$550, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$60, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 65, sellers
Yangtsze	60	\$13½
Canton	50	\$220, sellers
Hongkong Fire	50	\$310, buyers
China Fire	20	\$85, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$31, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$119, buyers
China and Manila	50	\$22½, buyers
Douglas Steamship	50	\$35, sales & buyers
Star Ferry	10	\$33, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	26/-, sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	28. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$147, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$9, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	40 cts., sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cts., buyers
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490, ex d.v.
Raub	18/10d.	\$7, buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$215, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$112, sellers
New Amoy Dock	63	\$30
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 150, sales
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$150, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35½, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$57, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$137, sellers
Humphreys Estate	10	\$12½, buyers
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	\$2½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170
Hongkong	10	\$14½, sellers
Green Island Cement	10	\$27½, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	12	\$10, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$14½, sellers
Hongkong Electric	10	\$13½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$7½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	50	\$150
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	25	\$140, sellers
Hongkong Ice	25	\$48, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	100	\$212½, buyers
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	10	\$280, sales
Dairy Farm	6	\$16½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$14½, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$37, sellers
United Asbestos	4	\$5, sellers
Do.	10	\$10½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	5	\$1, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	10	\$9, sales
Watkins Ltd.	10	\$7½, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	10	\$5
Powell, Ltd.	10	\$10½, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	50	\$30
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—	10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$200
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	10	\$9.75, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their Share Report for the week ending 19th May, 1904, state:—The principal business of the week has been in Indo-Chinas & Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. Indos rose steadily from 74 cash to 78 for May delivery. Langkats, after considerable sales at Tls. 297½ cash rose to 310, but quickly subsided and at closing there are no buyers over 300. T. T. rate on London is quoted 2/6. Banks.—H. & S. Banks.—Shares have changed hands locally at \$660 ex 78. Insurance.—China Fires at \$80 ex 78. There are local buyers at this rate. Shipping.—Indos opened on the 12th with cash sales at Tls. 74, and sales for July at 75½. On the 18th, July shares

were placed at 76½; 14th, July shares were placed at 76½ and 77, and 78 August; 16th at 77 cash, 77½ May, 78 and 79 July and 79½ August; 17th, shares for May delivery at 78 and 79 July and August. At closing shares have been placed and are wanted at 79 August, while buyers offer 77½ for cash shares. Shell Transport & Trading Co. Ord. Shares are offered at 28/-, Shanghai Tugs. Ord. shares have been placed at Tls. 48 and Prof. at 47. Docks and Wharves.—A fair business has been done in S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. at steady rates throughout the week. The market opened at Tls. 150 cash, strengthened slightly, and business was done at Tls. 151, and 151 for May settlement. Sales effected for June at 143 and for July at 155 and 154½ and 153; and for September 157. The market closes steady at 150 cash. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. Cash shares have been placed at Tls. 150 and 153; there are sellers at the latter rate. Sugar.—No business reported locally. Perak Sugars are wanted at Tls. 53. Mining.—Oriental Golds have been placed at G. \$10½. Weihaiwei Golds at \$17½ and Kaipings at Tls. 7. Lands.—Shanghais have been placed at Tls. 107½ and 108. Shares are obtainable at the latter rate. Industrial.—Cotton Stock continues neglected. Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 115 and are offering. Green Islands at \$24 ex 73. A. S. Watson & Co. \$14½ ex 73. Shanghai Ices at Tls. 19/20, and Pulps at Tls. 120. Langkats. The market opened on the 12th with sales at 300 cash, and again on the 18th at the same rate; 14th, shares were placed at 302½ and 305 cash, with sales at 307½ and 310 May, Tls. 310 and 312½ June, 312½ and 315 July. On the 16th cash shares were placed at 310 and sales for June at 312½, 317½ and 315 July; 17th, cash shares were placed at 305. On the 18th cash at 305 at 302½ were reported with sales for May at 305. At closing the market is weak at 302½ with shares probably obtainable at 300. Sumatras have been placed at \$60. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des Colonies have been placed at Tls. 14. Weeks at \$20½ and 20. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 67 and Horse Bazaars at Tls. 71. Debentures.—Astor House 8 per cent Dbs. have been placed at Tls. 100; sellers of all other debentures at quotations.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre:—General 48/- net per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 net per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (overland):—Tea 1½ G\$ cents per lb. gross. To New York (via Suez):—35/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai:—Tea, Tals 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai:—General, Tals 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—
 ARRIVALS.
 20, Borg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 20, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Hipsang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Johanne, German str., from Bangkok.
 20, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, M. Bacquehem, Aust. str., from Shanghai.
 20, Prometheus, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 20, Queensland, British str., from Barry.
 20, Rasdara, British str., from Barry.
 20, Samsen, German str., from Kohsichang.
 20, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 20, Waihora, British str., from Straits.
 20, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Agamemnon, British str., from Kobe.
 21, Hohnstein, German str., from Emden.
 21, Marie Jansen, German str., from Java.
 21, Orange, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 21, Siam, British str., from Singapore.
 21, Tiger, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.
 21, Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.
 21, Winsconsin, U.S. battleship, from Manila.
 22, Ceylon, British str., from London.
 22, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 22, Hailoong, British str., from Amoy.
 22, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 22, Hongmob, British str., from Singapore.
 22, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 22, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 22, Mathilda, Norw. str., from Kutchinotau.
 22, Oscar II., Norwegian str., from K'notau.
 22, Petrarch, German str., from Canton.

22, Shawmut, Amr. str., from Tacoma.
 22, Shoaahsing, British str., from Canton.
 22, Taming, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Thalo, British str., from Swatow.
 22, Vicksburg, U.S. gunboat, from Manila.
 22, Vindobona, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 22, Whitgift, British str., from Barry.
 22, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
 23, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.
 23, Elis, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 23, Goodwin, British str., from Moji.
 23, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 23, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 23, Nurnberg, German str., from Hamburg.
 23, Oregon, U.S. battleship, from Manila.
 23, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 23, Simongan, Dutch str., from Samarang.
 24, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Emprs of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 24, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 24, Heimdal, Norwegian str., from Barry.
 24, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 24, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 24, Zieten, German str., from Bremen.
 24, Manila, British str., from Japan.
 24, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Themis, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 25, Alcinous, British str., from Foochow.
 25, Bayern, German str., from Yokohama.
 25, Choyssang, British str., from Canton.
 25, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 25, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 25, Pent kota, British str., from Singapore.
 25, Plitvice, Austrian str., from Moji.
 26, Indramayo, British str., from New York.
 26, Kilburn, British str., from Singapore.
 26, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 26, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
 26, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 26, Nanshan, British str., from Kobsichang.
 26, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Macquarie, British str., from Saigon.
 26, Unison, Norwegian str., from Penarth.
 26, Vienna, British str., from Karatsu.
 27, Foochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
 27, Germania, German str., from Moji.
 27, Kobsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Maclew, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Taming, British str., from Canton.
 27, Tungshing, British str., from Canton.
 27, Yuenang, British str., from Manila.
 27, Zingara, British str., from Barry.
 28, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Bainbridge, U.S. t.-b. destr., from Manila.
 28, Barry, U.S. t.-b. destroyer, from Manila.
 28, Chaucer, U.S. t.-b. destr., from Manila.
 28, Dale, U.S. t.-b. destroyer, from Manila.
 28, Decatur, U.S. t.-b. destroyer, from Manila.
 28, Trongate, British barque, from Fremantle.
 28, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Odd, Norwegian barque, from Bunburz.
 28, Tritos, German str., from Swatow.
 28, Yangtze, British str., from Liverpool.
 29, Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
 29, Candia, British str., from London.
 29, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
 29, Gaea, German str., from Saigon.
 29, Gregor Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 29, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 29, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.

May—
 DEPARTURES.
 20, Calliope, British str., for Sourabaya.
 20, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Dardanus, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Foyle, British str., for Kutebinotzu.
 20, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Halaban, Dutch str., for Palambang.
 20, Hipsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 20, Marburg, German str., for Hamburg.
 20, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 20, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 20, Silverlip, British str., for Nagasaki.
 20, Tean, British str., for Canton.
 20, Tolo, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 20, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 21, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 21, China, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Chunsang, British str., for Singapore.
 21, Chnsan, British str., for Europe.
 21, Decima, German str., for Newchwang.
 21, Kowloon, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Lothian, British str., for Salina Cruz.
 21, Marquis Baequehem, Aust. str., for Trieste.
 21, Rasdara, British str., for Sasebo.

21, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
 21, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.
 22, Apenrade, German str., for Pakhoi.
 22, Binh Thuan, French str., for Kobe.
 22, Berg, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22, Eclipse, British cruiser, for Shanghai.
 22, Elaine, British str., for Nagasaki.
 22, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
 22, Heathford, British str., for Moji.
 22, Hohnstein, German str., for Tsintau.
 22, Indrapara, British str., for Wocsung.
 22, Kansu, British str., for Tientsin.
 22, Loksang, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, M. S. Dollar, Brit. str., for San Francisco.
 22, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Sheila, British str., for Newcastle.
 22, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Verona, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Waibora, British str., for Amoy.
 23, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 23, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Shoaahsing, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 23, Taming, British str., for Canton.
 23, Vicksburg, U.S. gunboat, for Shanghai.
 24, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 24, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Humber, British storeship, for Shanghai.
 24, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
 24, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 24, Ness, British str., for Saigon.
 24, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 25, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 25, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 25, Oscar I., Norwegian str., for Moji.
 25, Promethus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 25, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 25, Tjim-hi, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
 25, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
 25, Whitgift, British str., for Yokohama.
 25, Zieten, German str., for Shanghai.
 25, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Tweeddale, British str., for South Africa.
 26, Agamemnon, British str., for Yokohama.
 26, Alcinous, British str., for London.
 26, Batavia, German str., for Kobe.
 26, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 26, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
 26, Kilburn, British str., for Sasebo.
 26, Laertes, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Manila, British str., for London.
 26, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 26, Nurnberg, German str., for Japan.
 26, Siam, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 27, Choyssang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 27, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 27, Indramayo, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Ousang, British str., for Singapore.
 27, Orange, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 27, Petrarch, German str., for Newchwang.
 27, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Unison, Norwegian str., for Sasebo.
 27, Zingara, British str., for Sasebo.
 28, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
 28, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 28, Mausang, British str., for Kudat.
 28, Pentakota, British str., for Rangoon.
 28, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 28, Shawmut, American str., for Tacoma.
 28, Simongan, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 28, Themis, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 28, Tungshing, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 29, M. Struve, German str., for Tamsui.
 29, Queensland, British str., for Guam.
 29, Sishan, British str., for Amoy.
 29, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.

PASSENGER LIST. ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong,
 Mr. and Mrs. J. C. C. Master, Mr. and Mrs. H.
 Humphreys, Messrs. R. L. Koenitz, Ed. Owen,
 C. E. Hochapfel, M. Bull, and T. W. Mitchell;
 for Singapore, Messrs. Alex. Mitchell, Chief P.O.,

Edwin Knight, Chief E.R.A., Chas. Neill,
 E.R.A., C. W. Green, Chief P.O., A. J. Kent,
 Chief E.R.A., and R. A. Adkin, E.R.A.;
 for Port Said, Rev. and Mrs. Robertson; for
 Marseilles, Mr. C. Tarbutt; for London, Rev.
 and Mrs. O. Stevenson, child and infant, Mrs.
 Fulton and child, Mrs., Miss, and Master Bull
 and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Graham
 and child, Master Pollard, Capt. W. Denning
 and James Potter, Surgeon J. C. Rowan, R.N.,
 Messrs. J. B. Howie, J. R. Owen, A. Dave, E. J.
 Collings, J. Minto, J. Laing, W. Soddon, C. G.
 Smith, R. G. Austin, and R. C. P. Richards;
 from Yokohama, for London, Mr. and Mrs.
 H. W. Buckland, Messrs. C. W. Arnould, N.
 Hayashi, and S. Takashima.

Per *Empress of China*, from Yokohama, Mr.
 and Mrs. J. M. Phalen, Mrs. P. Hulme, Mr.
 and Mrs. J. A. McAlister, Mrs. MacDougall,
 Miss N. F. McAndrews, and Mr. W. W. Coon;
 from Kobe, Mr. W. G. Peter and Capt. Wolff;
 from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. A. Cameron; from
 Shanghai, Mrs. E. Moore, Messrs. J. E. Blanco,
 F. O'Brien, J. W. Withington, Hamilton Sharp,
 and G. E. Tucker.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and
 Mrs. R. N. Nason, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Welch,
 Mr. and Mrs. F. Kennedy, Mrs. M. A. Wilkes,
 Mrs. L. Clarke, Mrs. H. Gray, Misses Anna
 Dunlop and Johnstone, Capt. J. T. Johnson,
 R.A.M.C., Father Agreda, Messrs. J. L. Davis,
 L. M. Harrington, H. Lapp, W. H. Wickham,
 and W. W. Wilson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong, for Colombo,
 Mr. R. M. Boger; for Marseilles, Mr. Venn
 Hughes; for London, Mrs. C. J. Allen and son,
 Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Blake, A.O.D., 2 daughters,
 2 children and infant, Mr. C. Blake, Mrs.
 Williamson, Engr. and Comdr. Wm. J. Bevan,
 Comdr. John D. Daintree, Messrs. John Godfrey,
 F. Lewis, and W. Emery Stark; from Shanghai,
 for Singapore, Messrs. Alex. Mitchell, Chief
 P.O., Edwin Knight, Chief E.R.A., Chas. Neill,
 E.R.A., C. W. Green, Chief P.O., A. J. Kent,
 Chief E.R.A., and R. A. Adkin, E.R.A.; for
 Port Said, Rev. and Mrs. Robertson; for Mar-
 seilles, Mr. Coventry Tarbutt; for London, Rev.
 and Mrs. O. Stevenson, child and infant, Mrs.
 Fulton and child, Mrs., Miss and Master Bull
 and children, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Graham and
 child, Capt. W. Denning and James Potter,
 Master Pollard, Messrs. J. B. Howie, J. R. Owen,
 A. Dave, E. J. Collings, J. Minto, J. Laing,
 W. Soddon, C. G. Smith, R. G. Austin, R. C. P.
 Richards, and Surgeon J. C. Rowan, R.N.;
 from Yokohama, for London, Mr. and Mrs.
 H. W. Buckland, Messrs. C. W. Arnould, S.
 Takashima, and W. Hayashima.

Per *Bayern*, for Singapore, Dr. J. M. Crago,
 Messrs. T. B. Norrie, E. C. Hochapfel, Strand,
 and Vallance and party; for Colombo, Mr. A.
 Busgang; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. C. W.
 Hodgson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Lawshe, Consul
 Dr. Eiswaldt, Messrs. C. Ewens, A. Velhagen,
 W. E. Norris, John G. Blazer, and R. Sieben-
 schlein; for Antwerp, Mr. C. Schmid; for
 Southampton, Mrs. D. E. Wolfe, Mrs. E. L.
 Doran, Mr. and Mrs. Lafrentz, Messrs. F. S.
 Boshack and Peter McNab; for London, Mr. and
 Mrs. Warren, Mrs. urrie and child, Mr. and
 Mrs. Wilkil, Mrs. J. Ross, Messrs. G. H. Smith,
 J. Carson, and Money.

Per *Korea*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Da
 Silva and Mr. E. A. Coddington; for Kobe,
 Mrs. E. N. Liebert and Mr. S. M. McCrea; for
 Yokohama, Messrs. C. H. Thompson, F. B. Da
 Silva, and Juan Santos; for Honolulu, Mr. San
 Hoy Wood; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. L. W.
 Sharpe, Rev. and Mrs. J. Burgess, Mrs. and
 Miss Moir, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. E. Kelly, Mr. and
 Mrs. M. B. Leavitt, Mrs. A. H. Beaumont, Mr.
 and Mrs. M. M. Levering, Mr. and Mrs. C. B.
 Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Tremper, Prof. and
 Mrs. J. Zancig, Mrs. M. E. Merahon, Count De
 Fersen, Capt. J. W. H. Grout, Misses Julia Park
 and Mabel McKay, Messrs. P. S. and F. W.
 Baylis, W. R. Moffatt, O. Hirschhorn, H. C.
 Watts, Brehmer, Jno. W. Gray, Jacques Bacod,
 Pierre Bacod, R. Soherer, J. W. Behr and family,
 T. H. Reid, E. H. McGarvie, J. E. Enright,
 and C. H. Covell.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS
 HALE for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux
 Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong.
 London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.